

## Yemen sentences Limburg bombers

**FIVE al-Qa'eda supporters responsible for bombing the tanker Limburg in October 2002 have been sentenced to 10 years in jail by a Yemeni judge.**

The sentencing was part of a move to change the perception of the country — the ancestral home of Osama Bin Laden — from a hotbed of terrorist activity to a country toeing the line in the fight against terrorism.

The militants appeared unrepentant upon hearing the verdict and burst into cries of "God is great, America is the enemy of God, Osama bin Laden is God's beloved".

### Speedboat

The attack, which took place two years ago, saw a speedboat armed with explosives crash into the side of the tanker that was carrying 400,000 barrels of Saudi crude oil.

The Limburg, built in 2000 and registered in the Kerguelen Islands, was being operated by Euronav, a Luxembourg-based subsidiary of Compagnie Maritime Belge. When the fire started, the vessel was calling at Ash Shihr to load with crude.

The resulting explosion killed one of the 25 crew members, injured others

and resulted in large-scale pollution. Eleven of the crew remained onboard to assist firefighters in their attempts to put out the flames.

At the time, the government of Yemen had denied any terrorist involvement and claimed that a technical fault was responsible for the fire.

However, a later investigation showed that the explosion was the work of terrorists under orders from Ali al-Harathi, the al-Qa'eda leader in Yemen.

### Anniversary

The explosion made headlines the world over; not just because of the extent of the damage, but also because it came just a few days before the second anniversary of the bombing of the USS Cole, that took place under similar circumstances.

The militants responsible for that particular bombing are also on trial in Yemen, with five suspects under arrest and the sixth being tried in absentia.

There were a total of 15 terrorists sentenced to varying terms in jail by judge Ahmed al-Jarmouzi on Saturday. Two of the men, brothers Fawaz and Abu Baqr al-Rabe'ie received 10-year

sentences for attacking a helicopter of US firm Hunt Oil in late 2002, and a fine of YR18.3m (\$99,133) for an attack on a civil aviation building. Hazem Megalli received the death penalty for a variety of crimes that included killing a Yemeni soldier at an army checkpoint.

### Plots

The others were responsible for a variety of crimes including a plots to attack the embassies of the US, Britain, Germany, France and Cuba. They were also found guilty of forming an armed group that has attacked targets in Yemen and other parts of the world.

One of the militants responsible for a plot to assassinate the US ambassador to Sanaa was sentenced to death. All these attacks were seen as revenge against the CIA for killing al-Harathi in 2002 with a missile fired from a drone aircraft.

All of the defendants are appealing the verdicts.

Yemen maintains that it is on alert for any terrorist attacks on sea ports but denies that it has any information on imminent attacks on its coasts.

**Namrata Nadkarni**  
Lloyd's List Editorial

## Summary of Major Cases in this week's issue of Lloyd's Casualty Week

<b>Vessel</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Flag</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>GT</b>	<b>DWT</b>	<b>Bit</b>	<b>Casualty</b>
<i>ANTONIOS K.</i>	general	ALB	—	—	—	—	Grounded on southern coast of Albania Aug 22 in high winds. Passengers and crew evacuated. Still aground and partially sunk Aug 23.
<i>BAIKAL</i>	—	KHM	—	219	—	—	Reported waterlogged and adrift in lat 43 53N, long 138 38E, Aug 25. Reported later same day under tow of fishing <i>Bawsium</i> . All crew safe, still on board.
<i>CAPO MANUELA</i>	lpg	ITA	—	1910	2,458	1971	Reported Aug 9 at Sibenik, waiting to be scrapped after sustaining engine damage.
<i>CHEMBULK SINGAPORE</i>	chem tanker	LBR	AB	7,916	13,901	1989	Grounded at Mokha port entrance Aug 20. Refloating attempt unsuccessful. Further attempt to be made Aug 25. Refloated Aug 26. No apparent damage. In port discharging.
<i>JAN MARIA</i>	fishing	DEU	GL	7,646	3,250	1989	Reported Aug 18 to have been at BREDO (Bremerhaven Dock GmbH) since Jul 22. Expected to sail Sep 15.
<i>LAVENDER PASSAGE</i>	lpg	PAN	NK	44,549	49,708	1996	Reported in lat 33 20N, long 135 45E, bound Wakayama-Shimizu Ko, Aug 20, in tow of a tug, due engine trouble.
<i>MARIO G.</i>	fishing	CAN	—	123	—	1966	Reported disabled with missing propeller in lat 46 13.16N, long 59 55.36W, Aug 24. Subsequently towed to Glace Bay.
<i>REPUBBLICA DI GENOVA</i>	passenger	ITA	RI	42,567	25,450	1988	Had fire in a tank on fourth level at Falmouth dock Aug 19. Fire quickly extinguished. No injuries reported. Still undergoing repair/maintenance work Aug 23, ETC end Week 35.
<i>SARANI</i>	fishing	IND	IR	127	75	1990	Capsized 70-80 miles south of Haldia Aug 19 in high winds. 1 crew member rescued, 12 missing. Search under way.
<i>STOLT KITE</i>	chem tanker	CYM	LR	3,206	4,735	1992	In collision with pushtug Hercules in the River Oudemaas, Aug 19. Sustained serious damage over 20m to starboard side. Proceeded to Dordrecht for investigation. At lay-by berth Aug 20. Still at Stolt Chemiehaven, Dordrecht, Aug 23.
<i>SUPERFLYTE</i>	tug	NZL	BV	578	200	1996	Had fire in engine-room Aug 22 after leaving waiheke Island. Fire extinguished and proceeded towards Auckland. Anchored in Tamaki Strait following control failure caused by the fire. All passengers transferred to other vessels.
<i>UNITED STAR</i>	general	BGD	—	—	—	—	In collision with vessel Nazimuddin at Chittagong outer anchorage Aug 20. Partially submerged. Beached near the port.

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## The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



### ACX HIBISCUS (Panama)

See "Indonesia" under "Piracy."

### AFRIN (Turkey)

Istanbul, Aug 21 — General cargo *Afrin* arrived Diliskelesi Aug 15 from Galatz. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ALGOFAX (Canada)

Halifax, Aug 24 — Product tanker *Algofax* was sold and renamed *Halifax*. Vessel sailed Halifax, NS, Aug 9 for Bangladesh via Suez Canal. ETA Port Said, Aug 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ANTARES (Gibraltar)

Montevideo, Aug 24 — Chem.tank *Antares* completed repairs at shipyard Tsakos Industrias Navales and sailed Aug 17 to service zone/lightering zone, from where it sailed Aug 18 for Rio Grande. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ANTONIO (Albania)

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Antonio*, Sarande for Corfu, with 80 passengers and eight crew-members on board, was rescued from sinking Aug 22. According to official sources at Sarande, *Antonio* was pushed by waves towards the cliffs and its engines were damaged. Four helicopters began the rescue operation. It is reported that all the persons on board have been rescued without injury.

London, Aug 23 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Aug 22, small passenger ro-ro, of open type, *Antonio K.*, previously reported as *Antonio*, grounded on the coastline of southern Albania while performing the schedule Sarande-Kerkyra with 74 passengers on board. The Albanian authorities requested assistance from the Greek Ministry for a joint effort in saving the passengers and crew and refloating the vessel. The ministry immediately despatched two Greek Navy vessels and a Super Puma helicopter. Additionally tug *Doxa* proceeded to the area with personnel from the Kerkyra Coast Guard on board. Patrol boats of the Coast Guard were also despatched. Nearby vessels were notified in order to assist. Weather conditions in the area were difficult with winds at force seven, Beaufort Scale. However the 74 passengers and eight crew-members were safely rescued and taken to Albania. The stricken vessel remains grounded in the same position and is semi-sunken.

### ARCTIC SUN NO.1

Freeport, Bahamas, Aug 24 — Barge *Arctic Sun No.1* was successfully refloated at its capsized location, Berry Islands, on Aug 18/19. Once stabilized it was towed into Freeport on Aug 20/21 where it is presently secured and

awaiting estimates for repairs to damaged bulwarks, ramp, etc. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ARMADA PUTERI (Malaysia)

Yokohama, Aug 24 — Lpg *Armada Puteri* (2856 gt, built 1990) proceeding in the Kanmon Strait for China, had engine trouble and anchored at 0515, Aug 20. It was repaired by the vessel's crew and resumed voyage at 0655 hrs, same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ASTOR (Bahamas)

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The master of passenger *Astor* ignored the advice of a harbour pilot shortly before the vessel grounded as it left the port of Townsville, a report found today. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) said the master of *Astor* had manoeuvred the ship clear of its Townsville berth on Feb 26 this year without consulting the harbour pilot who had adopted an advisory role. "As the ship was turning from the harbour into Platypus Channel, part of the approach channel to the port, it grounded on its port side," the ATSB said. "The ship heeled three degrees to starboard and, after about three minutes, slid clear of the bank without assistance and continued out of the channel." The ship then stopped for about two hours to check its hull was not breached and all machinery was operating normally. It notified the ATSB before continuing to Cairns where its hull was examined further. The Cairns investigation found no steering malfunction. The ATSB said the grounding was caused by several factors, including the failure of the master to accept the pilot's advice after the ship left its berth. Communications on the bridge were in a language the pilot was not able to understand, the master had not positioned the ship correctly for a turn to starboard into Platypus Channel and had not presented an outward passage plan to any of those present on the bridge. The investigation also was complicated by the fact the Voyage Data Recorder (VDR) was not backed up immediately after the grounding, highlighting a deficiency in crew training and also showing bridge records were not kept properly. And when *Astor* entered the Cairns Channel, the master used only one steering motor on the port rudder without the pilot's knowledge. The report recommended ship owners, managers, operators and masters ensure all bridge staff are fully trained in the correct operation of data backup procedures. It also recommended that masters should not be actively in control during pilotage unless they are familiar with the port and do so with the pilot's agreement. All bridge orders also should be given in a language understood by pilots and crew, the ATSB said.

### ATLANTIC (Belgium)

London, Aug 19 — At 0930, today, inland non specific tanker *Atlantic* 2398 dwt, Rotterdam for Ghent, with a cargo

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of fuel oil, ran aground near the Oost-Buitenhaven of Terneuzen, while entering the outer harbour. Conditions at the time saw strong south-westerly winds up to force seven (near gale) and an ebb tide. With tug *Fonda* and support vessel *Multrajet* standing by, the vessel succeeded in refloating itself, under its own power, after a quarter of an hour and entered the Oost Buitenhaven, where the authorities came on board for inspection. It was found that it had no damage.

London, Aug 23 — Tank barge *Atlantic* (2399 gt, official No.60.02046, owned by Victor Huygebaert Rederij, cargo was not fuel oil but one parcel of heating oil, undyed, and one parcel of diesel oil destination Oiltanking, Ghent.

#### **BAIKAL (Cambodia)**

London, Aug 25 — Following navigation warning broadcast today: Waterlogged cargo vessel *Baikal*, 219 gt, adrift in vicinity of lat 43 53N, long 138 38E, at 0330, UTC, Aug 25.

London, Aug 25 — Following received from Japan Coast Guard timed, 2053, local time: Cambodia vessel *Baikal*, XUDS3, 219 gt, with nine crew, is now under tow of fishing *Bawisum*. All crew are staying on board, no injuries.

#### **BESTVIC I (Malaysia)**

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven men on Sabah-registered tug *Best Tug 1* (? tug *Bestvic I*, 85 gt, built 1982) and cargo worth RM1mil have been missing for the past five days in waters close to southern Philippines. The five crew and two workers last communicated with their Sandakan employers while off Tambisan, on Sabah's eastern tip, on Saturday afternoon (Aug 14) when they were adrift with engine problems. But until yesterday, their whereabouts were unknown giving rise to concerns for their safety as they were not far from the Sulu Sea where bandits abducted three crewmen of the Sarawak-registered tug *East Ocean* on Apr 12. Word of the seven missing men on the Sandakan-based 19m tug *Best Tug 1* and its 45m barge, *Coastal 18* (? barge *Coastal No.18*, 629 gt, built 1989), with three excavators, a truck and two container cabins, reached the owner Syarikat Hi Soon Sdn Bhd on Sunday. Hi Soon lodged a report with the Lahad Datu police at 2300 Tuesday after conducting air and sea searches. "At this moment, we don't think they have been kidnapped because we know our boat was adrift and could have entered southern Philippine waters," said company manager Chin Su Len yesterday. He said the crew of the tug, which was on its way from Sandakan to Semporna, comprised two Malaysians and three Indonesians and two Filipinos working for the owners of the cargo. According to the company, it dispatched two tugs to assist *Best Tug 1* after receiving a distress call. But the team was unable to locate the tug and the crew. Lahad Datu OCPD Supt Idris Jikon confirmed that a report was lodged on Tuesday. "We have yet to come across the drifting vessel and the search is still on," he said. Through a

Sandakan contact, the company also informed the Philippine Navy's anti-terrorist task force operating in the vicinity of Tawi Tawi island.

London, Aug 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A missing Sabah-registered tug *Bestvic I* and tank barge *Coastal No.18* with cargo worth RM1mil have been found in the southern Philippines with its skipper reported dead and six other crewmen safe. The Malaysian skipper, Baginda Dayak, 40, was believed to have died when a snapped cable hit him while the tug was adrift in the Sulu Sea since it went missing Aug 14. They had been adrift for five days in the Sulu Sea and were some 180 nautical miles off course from the route they were taking from the Sabah east coast town of Sandakan to Semporna. Yesterday, the Malaysian police and the Philippine Navy confirmed that the crew on board the tugboat and its barge *Coastal No.18* had been located at 2200, Thursday (Aug 19). They were found about 18 nautical miles north-west of Pangutaran Island not far from the Abu Sanyaf gunmen's stronghold of Jolo island. Lahad Datu OCPD Supt Idris Jikon also confirmed that the police had been informed that the tugboat, owned by Sandakan-based Syarikat Hi Soon Sdn Bhd, has been located and its captain had died.

#### **BLUE STAR NAXOS (Greece)**

London, Aug 23 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the morning of Aug 22, passenger ro/ro *Blue Star Naxos* (10438 gt, built 2002) delayed departure from Santorini for two hours due to engine damage, which was repaired by the crew. Following inspection by the Marine Inspectorate of Santorini, the vessel was permitted to sail for Naxos-Paros-Piraeus with 365 passengers on board.

#### **BRITANIS (Greece)**

Santos, Aug 24 — Crude oil tanker *Britanis* sailed from Sao Sebastiao on Aug 18 for Angra dos Reis. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BUXTEHUDE (Cyprus)**

Vigo, Aug 24 — General cargo *Buxtehude* is still under repair at Cardama Quay, Vigo. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CANADA SENATOR (Liberia)**

London, Aug 21 — Cc *Canada Senator* passed Gibraltar East at 1753, Aug 19, for Gioia Tauro.

London, Aug 24 — C.c. *Canada Senator* arrived at Gioia Tauro on Aug 22.

#### **CAPO MANUELA (Italy)**

Genoa, Aug 9 — Managers of lpg *Capo Manuela* (1910 gt, built 1971) inform that vessel is presently moored at Sibenik waiting to be scrapped after having sustained engine damage. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Capo Manuela* was last reported passing Gibraltar Sep 22, 2003, for Sibenik.)

#### **CELTIC SPIRIT (Bahamas)**

London, Aug 25 — General cargo *Celtic Spirit* sailed from Riga on Aug 22, bound for Warrenpoint.

#### **CHEMBULK SINGAPORE (Liberia)**

Hodeidah, Aug 23 — Chem.tank *Chembulk Singapore* (7916 gt, built 1989) ran aground at Mokha port entrance Aug 20. Understand that the vessel is still aground and a refloating attempt will commence tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

Hodeidah, Aug 24 — Chem.tank *Chembulk Singapore* from Malaysia, carrying palm oil, an attempt by Port Authorities using a smaller tug failed earlier. It is now intended to bring a larger tug to try again to refloat the vessel. This operation is expected to take place at next high water between 0600-0700, tomorrow morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 26 — Following received from the operators of chem.tank *Chembulk Singapore*, dated Singapore, today: *Chembulk Singapore* was refloated yesterday with no apparent damage. Vessel is now in port discharging cargo.

#### **CLIPPER ODYSSEY (Bahamas)**

London, Aug 20 — A news release from Clipper Cruise Line states: Clipper Cruise Line has cancelled the Aug 26 departure of Alaska's Glaciers, Fjords and Wildlife cruise on board passenger *Clipper Odyssey*. The cancellation was necessary in order to complete repairs to the ship, which was damaged near Dutch Harbour on Jul 31.

#### **COASTAL NO.18 (Malaysia)**

See *Bestvic I*.

#### **COSMIC LEADER (Philippines)**

Yokohama, Aug 20 — Vehicle *Cosmic Leader* arrived Nagoya Aug 16 and sailed Aug 18. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **EVERTON (Malta)**

Dubai, Aug 24 — Crude oil tanker *Everton* is still under repair at Dubai Drydocks. The vessel is expected to complete repairs Aug 26 and sail Dubai Sep 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **EXPRESS OLYMPIA (Greece)**

London, Aug 23 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: On Aug 22, while passenger ro/ro *Express Olympia* (4658 gt, built 1973) was sailing between Piraeus and Evidilos-Karlovassi-Vathi, damage occurred to the No.2 generator. The damage was repaired by the crew and following a survey by the Marine Inspectorate of Samos, the vessel was permitted to depart at 2240.

#### **FAIAL (Portugal)**

Ponta Delgada, Aug 23 — General cargo *Faial* is still moored alongside the inner quay of Ponta Delgada, now under detention in consequence of some reported deficiencies found by the Port State Control. The necessary arrangements are now being carried out by the vessel's new owners according to Ports State Control recommendations. On completion of the deficiencies, detention will be lifted and the vessel will be permitted to sail. — Lloyd's Agents.

**FAMILLE DUFOUR II (Canada)**

London, Aug 24 — While mooring ferry *Famille Dufour II* (465 gt, built 1994) struck the wharf at Ile aux Courdres, Quebec, at 0950, EDST, Aug 24. A hole was observed on its port side above the waterline. Minor injuries reported.

**FEDERAL MAAS (Barbados)**

Montreal, Aug 19 — Bulk *Federal Maas* sailed Montreal Aug 19 for Algeria. — Lloyd's Agents.

**GLOBAL WINNER (Panama)**

London, Aug 25 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0045, UTC: Bulk *Global Winner* is still in port at Singapore and is due to enter Jurong yard today.

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk *Global Winner* will enter Jurong Shipyard today nearly eight weeks after running aground on an uncharted reef 180 miles east of Singapore on Jun 24. Damage is confined to the underside of the ship and its keel with the first three holds flooded in the incident. It is expected to remain in dry dock until late September. Wijsmuller Salvage refloated the stranded vessel under a Lloyd's Open Form. About 54,000 tonnes of cargo had to be offloaded before the vessel could be refloated. It was eventually towed into Singapore on Jul 17. Since then it has been anchored in Singapore's Raffles Reserve undergoing a ship-to-ship transfer of its cargo to bulk *Hyundai Oceania*. (Note — *Hyundai Oceania* arrived Singapore Jul 26 and sailed Aug 19 for Gwangyang.)

**HERCULES 3**

See *Stolt Kite*.

**HIBISCUS ISLE (Panama)**

Yokohama, Aug 24 — C.c. *Hibiscus Isle* (8652 gt, built 1994) sustained listing due to heavy swell, its lashing pole broke and 25 containers were washed overboard, while at anchor off Akadomari, Niigata, at 0216, Aug 20. Weather west south-west 27 m/s, waves 4 metres, sea swell 4 metres, visibility 15 metres. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Hibiscus Isle* sailed Shanghai Aug 12 for Japan.)

**HIGHSPEED 2 (Greece)**

London, Aug 23 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 1235, local time, Aug 20, passenger ro/ro *Highspeed 2* (2869 gt, built 2000) arrived at Sifnos following damage sustained to one of the four main engines. At the time the vessel was performing the schedule Piraeus-Kythnos-Serifos-Sifnos-Milos-Piraeus with 233 passengers on board for Milos and 21 for Sifnos. After a survey by the Marine Inspectorate *Highspeed 2* was permitted to sail for Milos.

**ILA (Belize)**

Vigo, Aug 24 — Trawler *Ila* is still under repair at Vigo. The repairs are expected to be completed during September. — Lloyd's Agents.

**IMPERIAL 199**

See *Stolt Kite*.

**IRAN ARDEBIL (Iran)**

Aden, Aug 19 — C.c. *Iran Ardebil*: No details of condition of vessel as yet. Understand divers have been conducting inspection. Salvors have personnel at Aden awaiting for go-ahead. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 20 — Understood salvage services are being rendered to c.c. *Iran Ardebil* under Lloyd's Open Form, dated Aug 19.

Aden, Aug 23 — C.c. *Iran Ardebil* can be seen clearly by passing traffic, hard aground with bow up on rocky foreshore clear of the water. — Lloyd's Agents.

**JACK D.WOFFORD (U.S.A.)**

London, Aug 20 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1220, UTC: A barge being pushed by tug *Jack D.Wofford* (628 gt, built 1966) struck the E, J & E Bridge, Calumet River, yesterday evening. The bridge was not damaged but the barge sustained a four-foot hole. The barge and tug continued on to destination, which not known, where the barge will be surveyed.

**JADE STAR (Canada)**

London, Aug 25 — Chemical/oil carrier *Jade Star* (6262 gt, built 1993) struck and damaged Buoy WC53, while turning around in Port Colborne harbour at 0230, Aug 23.

**JAN MARIA (Germany)**

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated Aug 18, states: Fishing *Jan Maria* (7646 gt, built 1989) has been at BREDO (Bremerhaven Dock GmbH) since Jul 22 with machinery damage. The vessel is expected to sail Sep 15. (Note — *Jan Maria* arrived Bremerhaven Jul 12, sailed Jul 17 and arrived Bremerhaven again Jul 22.)

**JIM CUNNINGHAM (Marshall Islands)**

London, Aug 24 — A press release from Transocean Inc, dated Houston, today, states: Transocean Inc today announced that its semi-submersible drill platform *Jim Cunningham* (7977 gt, built 1982) experienced a well control incident on Friday, Aug 20, while operating offshore Egypt in the BG-operated West Delta Deep Marine concession. A fire resulted from the incident and was contained within the rig floor before being extinguished. Following the safe evacuation of all crew members on Friday, essential personnel are in the process of re-boarding the rig to assess the situation. The company is unable at this time to estimate the length of rig downtime or costs to repair the rig. *Jim Cunningham* has operated in the Mediterranean Sea, location of the West Delta Deep concession, since August 2002 and recently commenced a two-well contract with an expected date of completion of late 2004.

**JO LIND (Norway (Int. Register))**

London, Aug 20 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0605, UTC:

At 0540, UTC, chemical/oil carrier *Jo Lind* was in lat 19 43N, long 17 52W awaiting a tug (tug *Boa Queen*) which due on scene approximately 0600, UTC, Aug 21.

London, Aug 21 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1030, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier *Jo Lind*: Tug *Boa Queen* is due on scene at 1100, UTC. Vessel will be towed to Las Palmas.

London, Aug 22 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0935, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier *Jo Lind* in tow, bound Las Palmas, ETA 0600, Aug 26.

London, Aug 26 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0800, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier *Jo Lind* arrived Las Palmas, yesterday morning. Vessel is now at a shipyard.

**KEFALONIA (Greece)**

London, Aug 24 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 1715, local time, Aug 23, while making berthing manoeuvres at the port of Ithaki, passenger ro/ro *Kefalonia* (3473 gt, built 1975), grounded in shallow waters. At the time the vessel was performing the schedule Patras-Sami-Vathi-Ithaki with 112 passengers on board who are good in health. The passengers were transported to the quay on board tourist boats from the port. At 2215, *Kefalonia* refloated under own power and berthed safely at Ithaki port.

**KELSO (Belize)**

Cape Town, Aug 20 — Fishery protection *Kelso*: Understand the damage was mainly sustained to its fishing gear with very little structural damage to the vessel itself. Repairs are due to be completed next week whereafter it is expected to depart to fishing grounds. — Lloyd's Agents.

**KEN EXPLORER (Liberia)**

London, Aug 20 — Following received from the managers of bulk *Ken Explorer*, in Piraeus, timed 0830, UTC, today: *Ken Explorer*, Caleta Coloso for Dehej, is still aground. A larger tug is due on scene tomorrow.

London, Aug 23 — Following received from the operators of bulk *Ken Explorer*, dated today: *Ken Explorer* is still aground and refloating operations have not yet commenced.

**KLONDIKE EXPRESS (U.S.A.)**

London, Aug 25 — Following received from Coast Guard Kodiak, dated Aug 24: The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in Valdez is investigating a fire on board passenger *Klondike Express* (81 gt, built 1999) in Prince William Sound yesterday. The Whittier-based *Klondike Express* travelled just south of Outpost Island and west of Glacier Island when fire broke out in the engine-room. Crew members quickly extinguished the fire with the ship's on board fire suppression equipment and reported no injuries. The crew transferred the 57 passengers on board to the vessel *Nunatak* that took them to Whittier. *Klondike Express* is a 137-foot catamaran used for glacier and wildlife tours in Prince William Sound.

**KRITI I (Greece)**

London, Aug 23 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Aug 22, ro/ro *Kriti I* (27667 gt, built 1979) sustained damage to the starboard main engine while sailing from Heraklion to Piraeus with 1,430 passengers. Following the incident the vessel proceeded safely to Piraeus under reduced speed and arrived after a two hour delay. The passengers who were due to sail on the vessel for the evening schedule were forwarded to their destinations on passenger ro/ro *Prevelis*.

**LADY NORA (Mongolia)**

Muscat, Aug 19 — A local press report, dated Aug 18, states: Stricken Mongolian-flagged general cargo *Lady Nora*, on its way from Ajman to Somalia, carrying assorted general cargo, which has been stranded off the Sultanate's south-eastern seaboard for the past 10 days, will soon be towed either to Salalah or another port in the region for repairs, shipping representatives said. The vessel encountered engine trouble near the Hallaniyat Islands off the Wusta coast on Aug 8. In a distress call received by the maritime authorities two days later, the master reported that the vessel had been caught in choppy seas brought on by the south-west monsoon. Appealing for urgent help, he said the ship was in imminent danger after dragging anchor for an hour in bad weather. Responding to the distress call, rescue units rushed to the aid of *Lady Nora*, which currently lies at anchor about a mile north of the islands. All 22 crew have been reported safe, but the master, who complained of chest pain during the ordeal at sea, was later evacuated and flown to Salalah for treatment. He and a cook have since signed off the ship. According to shipping officials, the vessel has enough food and water on board to meet the basic needs of the crew. A rescue craft is currently in the vicinity of the vessel ready to provide any assistance, it has been learnt. Officials are hopeful that the ordeal of the crew on board will soon come to an end once the vessel's owners arrange for a substitute master to take charge of the vessel. A tug will also have to be arranged to tow the ship to either Salalah or to another port in the upper Gulf to facilitate repairs to the engine. — Lloyd's Agents.

**LASS MARS (Germany)**

St Petersburg, Aug 20 — General cargo *Lass Mars* arrived Kaliningrad Aug 11 and sailed Aug 15 for Kiel. — Lloyd's Agents.

**LAVENDER PASSAGE (Panama)**

London, Aug 20 — Following navigation warning broadcast at 1600, JST, today: Tug towing engine troubled Lpg *Lavender Passage* (44549 gt, built 1996) passing east of Shio-no-misaki, lat 33 20N, long 135 45E, at 1800, JST, bound Wakayama-Shimotsu Ko, speed five knots, length of tow 929 metres to Hi-no-misaki, length of tow after Hi-no-misaki 449 metres. ETA Wakayama-Shimotsu Ko 1000, JST, Aug 21.

**LEISURE WORLD (Bahamas)**

London, Aug 21 — Passenger *Leisure World* arrived Singapore Aug 17.

London, Aug 25 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0045, UTC: Passenger *Leisure World* is still in port at Singapore.

**LIMBURG****(French Southern Territories)**

London, Aug 24 — The trial of 15 Yemenis facing charges including bombing crude oil tanker *Limburg* and killing a police officer ended on Saturday (Aug 21) with the judge saying he will issue his verdicts next weekend. Yemeni prosecution lawyers concluded their case by calling for the 14 defendants, plus a 15th who was being tried in absentia, to be convicted and face the maximum penalties. Thirteen of the defendants face up to 20 years in jail, while two also face the death penalty for allegedly gunning down a police officer in late 2002. Judge Ahmed al-Jarmouzi said he will issue his verdict on Saturday (Aug 28).

**MARINCHRIS (Cyprus)**

Taranto, Aug 23 — Bulk *Marinchriss* sailed Taranto Aug 14 for Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MARIO G. (Canada)**

London, Aug 24 — Fishing *Mario G.* (123 gt, built 1966), with four persons on board, was reported disabled with a missing propeller in lat 46 13 16N, long 59 55 36W, at 0830, UTC, today. Vessel was subsequently towed to Glace Bay.

**MIDSLAND (Netherlands)**

See "Netherlands" under "Weather & Navigation."

**MOBY FREEDOM (Italy)**

Genoa, Aug 19 — Passenger ro/ro *Moby Freedom* arrived Genoa Aug 18. — Lloyd's Agents.

Genoa, Aug 25 — Passenger ro/ro *Moby Freedom* sailed from Genoa on Aug 23 bound for Bastia. — Lloyd's Agents.

**NAZIMUDDIN (Bangladesh)**

See *United Star*.

**NO.1 DAE BU (Panama)**

See "Typhoon 'Mindulle'" under "Weather & Navigation."

**ONEGO MERCHANT (Netherlands)**

London, Aug 21 — General cargo *Onego Merchant* arrived Hamburg Aug 19.

**PONT-AVEN (France)**

Brest, Aug 23 — Upon completion of repairs, passenger ro/ro *Pont-Aven* departed Brest Aug 22 for Plymouth. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Aug 20.)

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Brittany Ferries' troubled passenger ro/ro *Pont-Aven* finally returned to service yesterday. The vessel left Brest, where it has been undergoing repairs to its generator and cooling system, and sailed to Santander where it picked up passengers for a scheduled service to Plymouth. However, services on *Pont-Aven* to and

from Roscoff and Plymouth remain cancelled, although its sister ship *Duc de Normandie* continues to sail to Roscoff from Plymouth. The ferry is due to arrive at Millbay Docks in Plymouth at 1800 this evening and tomorrow's 1300 hrs service to Santander will leave Plymouth at the earlier time of 0800 hrs, to allow for the longer crossing time of 24 hours rather than the usual 18. "It will not be run at normal crossing speed as it will be operating slowly," said a Brittany Ferries spokesman. "It usually operates at 24 knots but is being reduced and will operate more like a standard ferry. "We do not want to push it too hard. We have to make sure everything is fine before we run at normal crossing speed." Brittany Ferries said no decision has been made regarding when the ferry will return to full speed and operate a normal timetable. "We are going to see how tomorrow's crossing goes," the spokesman added. Brittany Ferries said it would be impossible to calculate the overall expense until the ship is up and running again. The Plymouth-Roscoff crossing, due to leave at 1400 today, and the return Roscoff-Plymouth crossing, scheduled for departure to Plymouth at 2330 hrs, have both been cancelled. Brittany Ferries said it is contacting all passengers booked on to the service.

London, Aug 25 — Brittany Ferries' newest vessel, passenger ro/ro *Pont-Aven*, returned to service on Monday (Aug 23) after nearly two weeks out of service following a flooding incident in the port of Plymouth. The vessel was due back in Plymouth yesterday evening from Santander but is expected to be working to a lightened sailing programme pending the completion of repairs. Brittany Ferries said the vessel would continue to make two round trips weekly between Plymouth and Santander and one between Roscoff and Cork but that it would make only one round trip between Plymouth and Roscoff instead of three. Chief executive Michel Maraval said yesterday that *Pont-Aven* would have to be operating at reduced speed pending the completion of repairs, obliging the company to curtail its sailing programme. He confirmed that the vessel had lost some 40,000 passages during its absence for repairs. A first attempt to bring the vessel back into service early last week had to be abandoned after a first provisional repair gave out as the vessel was crossing the Channel from Brest to Plymouth. The vessel's power generation plant was damaged as a result of the engine-room flooding which occurred in Plymouth after the failure of a seawater gate valve on Aug 11. As a result, it was using alternative power generation plant which did not allow the vessel to be operated at its normal 25 to 26 knot service speed but rather at a speed of 18 to 21 knots. The vessel's performance is expected to improve in a couple of weeks when damaged alternators have been repaired but Mr Maraval said that the repaired alternators would be replaced by new ones in November. He added

that precise responsibilities for the breakdown had not yet been determined but that it was clear that there had been a failure of control systems. He confirmed, however, that the vessel, which was delivered in February by Germany's Jos. L. Meyer shipyard, was under guarantee.

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Pont-Aven* arrived Millbay Docks Plymouth at 1840 yesterday, around 24 hours after it left Santander.

#### **POSEIDON C. (Cyprus)**

London, Aug 23 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Aug 21, passenger ro/ro *Poseidon C.* (15237 gt, built 1970), Brindisi for Kerkyra/Igoumenitsa, with 195 passengers, sustained damage to the main engine air compressor, on approach to Kerkyra. Following the damage the vessel proceeded directly to Igoumenitsa and the passengers with destination Kerkyra were forwarded there on another vessel from Igoumenitsa.

#### **PRESTIGE (Bahamas)**

London, Aug 24 — The team of offshore specialists working to extract the remaining fuel oil from the wreck of crude oil tanker *Prestige* believes it will complete the operation by the end of September, several weeks ahead of schedule. This positive forecast comes despite the team having to postpone work twice in as many weeks because of bad weather. The operation, which has broken new ground in offshore technology, was due to be completed by the middle of October. But the success of the work so far has exceeded all expectations, prompting officials to speculate that, assuming the weather holds, the extraction could be over by the last week in September.

#### **REPUBBLICA DI GENOVA (Italy)**

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency crews in Cornwall were called to a fire which broke out on board passenger ro/ro *Repubblica di Genova* (42567 gt, built 1988) in Falmouth docks earlier today. Five appliances were sent to the incident. Three appliances were sent from Falmouth and two from Truro after fire broke out on the fourth level of the vessel. No.2 dock was evacuated but no one was hurt in the incident on the ship. (Note — *Repubblica di Genova* arrived Falmouth 0500, Aug 13.)

Falmouth Aug 20 — There was a fire in a tank on passenger ro/ro *Repubblica di Genova* this morning, which was extinguished shortly afterwards. — Lloyd's Agents.

Falmouth, Aug 23 — Passenger ro/ro *Repubblica di Genova* is still undergoing repair/maintenance work at Falmouth Drydocks and is expected to sail around the end of this week. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ROBERT Y.LOVE (U.S.A.)**

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated Aug 19, states: An attorney for the pilot of tug *Robert Y.Love* that hit

the Interstate 40 bridge causing a collapse that killed 14 people disagrees with the findings from a Coast Guard investigation. Joel Wohlgenuth has disputed the Coast Guard report that says tug pilot William Joe Dedmon suffered from lack of sleep on May 26, 2002, the day his tug drifted off course in the Arkansas River and two barges it was pushing struck a bridge pier. The Coast Guard report says Dedmon and his employers, Vicksburg, Miss.-based Magnolia Marine Transport Co., violated statutes that dictate the number of hours an employee can work in a day. "What we found is that the company allowed the captain to work more than 12 hours in a 24-hour period, which is a violation of federal law," Coast Guard Commander David Stalford said yesterday. Dedmon and his employers could both face fines. Wohlgenuth argued that physicians said Dedmon suffered a blackout as a result of a heart condition, not lack of sleep. "Captain Dedmon has never been notified at any time that he's violated these laws and that he's subject to any type of civil enforcement proceeding," Wohlgenuth said. "In fact, he has not violated any laws." Federal investigators previously reported that Dedmon slept only 10 hours in the two days before taking control of *Robert Y.Love*. The impact collapsed about 500 feet of the bridge. Several vehicles plummeted into the river below. The victims included an Arkansas family and people from Oregon, Texas, Utah and Oklahoma. Dedmon voluntarily surrendered his pilot's license and has not worked since the accident, Wohlgenuth said. He told the NTSB investigators several days later that he only remembered waking up and suddenly seeing unaware motorists plunge one after another into the Arkansas River. Medical evidence in an NTSB report indicated that Dedmon suffered from coronary disease and had a cardioverter defibrillator implanted in his chest. He tested negative for drugs. Dedmon, Magnolia Marine and Ergon Inc., Magnolia's parent company, settled lawsuits with the victims' families, survivors and the state of Oklahoma. Amounts of the settlements were not disclosed. State transportation officials estimated that the bridge collapse cost Oklahoma taxpayers close to \$30 million in repairs and lost revenues.

#### **SARANI (India)**

Chennai, Aug 23 — Fishing *Sarani* (127 gt, built 1990), belonging to a Chennai-based company and operating from here, capsized in the sand heads area of the Bay of Bengal, about 70 to 80 nautical miles south of Haldia around midnight on Thursday (Aug 19). According to reports, 12 out of the 13 crew members were missing, while one was picked up by another fishing vessel hours after the accident. The Coast Guard with one of its vessels and two helicopters, a vessel belonging to the Reliance company and 20 trawlers were conducting a search and rescue operation. The sea was rough and the visibility was poor, it was reported. *Sarani*, owned by the Chennai-based

Saravanan. Marine Products Pvt. Ltd, was operating from here. It left here on Aug 9 for fishing in the sea off the Orissa coast and dropped anchor on Thursday. At around 2330, local time, there was a big storm with winds of high velocity leading to the capsize of the vessel. The news about the accident was conveyed by Pari to the trawlers in Paradip port, who in turn informed the Managing Director of the company. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SEA CELEBRITY (Thailand)**

See *St. Joseph The Worker*

#### **SEAJET 2 (Greece)**

London, Aug 23 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 1220, local time, Aug 20, ferry *Seajet 2* (499 gt, built 1998) arrived at Mykonos with damage to No.3 main engine. At the time the vessel was performing the schedule Paros-Mykonos-Tinos-Rafina with 118 passengers for Mykonos and 53 for Tinos-Rafina. The passengers for Tinos-Rafina were forwarded to their destinations at 1345, on passenger ro-ro *Superferry II*. Following a survey by the Marine Inspectorate, *Seajet 2* was permitted to sail without passengers for Rafina.

#### **SOUTHERN MOANA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Aug 26 — Following received from the operators of general cargo *Southern Moana* in Bremen timed 0745, UTC: *Southern Moana* is still aground. The next refloating attempt will be made tonight. Once refloated the vessel will be taken to Suva for inspection.

#### **ST.JOSEPH THE WORKER (Philippines)**

Manila, Aug 20 — General cargo *Sea Celebrity* arrived Manila Aug 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Aug 25 — General cargo *Sea Celebrity* has been released after settlement of the case against it. However, the vessel is still in Manila for inspection and rectification of deficiencies, if any. Passenger ro/ro *St. Joseph the Worker* is still undergoing repairs at Keppel Batangas. No information as yet as to the duration of the repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **STOLT KITE (Cayman Islands)**

Maassluis, Aug 19 — Chem.tank *Stolt Kite* (3206 gt, built 1992), while shifting from Moerdyk to Rotterdam, was in collision with a barge on the River Oudemaas, near Heerjansdam, at 1900, local time today. *Stolt Kite* has sustained damage, reported to be severe, to the side hull but is not taking water. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Aug 20 — Chem.tank *Stolt Kite* was in collision, due to engine troubles, with pushing tug *Hercules 3* and barge *Imperial 199*. At this moment, they are still at position, near Heerjansdam. *Stolt Kite* is seriously damaged on its starboard side, over a length of 20 metres, above the waterline. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Aug 20 — Chem.tank *Stolt Kite* after keeping going till 0600 hrs in River Oudemaas/Spui, with tug

assistance, proceeding to its berth in Botlek. Pusher tug *Hercules 3* and barge *Imperial 199* proceeding to Dordrecht. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Aug 20 — A collision between chem.tank *Stolt Kite* and push tug *Hercules* (also reported *Hercules 3*) with four pushbarges loaded with ore, at about 1915, local time, Aug 19, caused an obstruction of all shipping traffic on the Oude Maas between Barendrecht and Heerjansdam. *Stolt Kite*, loaded with 4,200 tons of styrene, collided head to head with one of the barges and ran aground. There was no leakage of the inflammable cargo, only hull damage. At 0145, today, the tanker was refloated and towed to the Chemiehaven in Dordrecht for inspection. *Hercules* resumed voyage under own power and moored later in the harbour at Dordrecht for an investigation by the river police. After the vessel was refloated, shipping was allowed back on the Oude Maas.

London, Aug 20 — Following statement issued on behalf of Stolt-Nielsen Transportation Group: While outbound on the Oudemaa River, chem.tank *Stolt Kite* was involved in a collision with an inbound barge, *Imperial 199*, close to buoy 43. Shortly after the collision the two vessels were separated, with every care being taken to protect the vessels, crew and environment. As a precaution *Stolt Kite* lowered its anchor, and remained in position until first light. At no time did the vessel go aground. The vessel is currently in a lay-by berth where it will be fully assessed for damage. *Stolt Kite* has received some damage to its forward spaces. The cargo spaces and other areas of the vessel remain secure, intact and undamaged. No injuries were sustained to members of either crew, and there was no loss of cargo or other pollution as a result of the incident.

Maassluis, Aug 23 — Chem.tank *Stolt Kite* is still berthed at the Stolt Chemiehaven. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **STROOMBANK (Netherlands)**

London, Aug 20 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo *Stroombank* arrived Buvika Aug 18 from Denmark and sailed Aug 19 for Follafoss.

#### **SUPERFLYTE (New Zealand)**

London, Aug 22 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 300 passengers and crew were evacuated from the Fullers ferry catamaran ferry *Superflyte* (578 gt, built 1996) late this afternoon when it developed a fire in the engine-room after leaving Waiheke Island. All 311 passengers and six crew have been accounted for after the fire broke out about 1720 hrs, 20 minutes after the ferry left the island bound for Auckland. Fullers general manager Michael Fitchett said it was a "textbook rescue" of passengers and crew. While the exact cause of the fire was being investigated, at this stage it was thought to be the result of an electrical fault. "Three other Fullers vessels were alongside *Superflyte* to render assistance within eight minutes of the fire alert being made," he said. The fire

was put out by Fullers crew on board the vessel and it was able to continue towards Auckland without the immediate evacuation of passengers. However, a control failure resulting from the fire meant the vessel had to anchor in Tamaki Strait and passengers were transferred over a 20 minute period to the support vessels which then took them back to Auckland. Passengers were met by Fullers staff at the company's Auckland terminal. *Superflyte* has been secured and no-one allowed on board until it can be inspected by the Maritime Safety Authority to determine the cause of the fire tomorrow morning, Mr Fitchett said.

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Maritime inspectors are today investigating a fire on catamaran ferry *Superflyte* which resulted in more than 300 passengers being evacuated yesterday. The Fullers ferry *Superflyte* is likely to be out of action for several weeks after the blaze, believed to have been caused by an electrical fault, damaged the engine-room and controls as the vessel was sailing from Waiheke Island to Auckland. After the fire was spotted and extinguished, the ferry continued briefly under its own power but the controls were affected, forcing the master to transfer the 311 passengers to other ferries which arrived within eight minutes of the emergency being declared. The ferry was brought back to Auckland and sealed as the Maritime Safety Authority was due to begin an inquiry today. The MSA also ordered the crew not to release details about the fire. Fullers general manager Mike Fitchett said today it could be several weeks before the ferry was repaired and restored to service. He said the fire initially broke out in the engine-room but the fire affected wiring to the controls and it would be a large and expensive job to repair. Mr Fitchett said he anticipated the repairs would be covered by insurance and the company's insurers would be told today. He said there were no visible signs of a fire. "It is locked off and sealed and nobody is allowed to go on board until the inspectors have had a look." Mr Fitchett said the Maritime Safety Authority would also talk to passengers and a final report could be at least a month or so away. Repairs could take at least two months, he said. He said the MSA, Fuller and the Transport Accident Investigation Commission would investigate the fire independently and company would follow any recommendations that came out of the probe.

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The passengers on board burning Hauraki Gulf catamaran ferry *Superflyte* on Sunday evening (Aug 22) deserve credit for the way they behaved, believes the general manager of ferry company Fullers Group, Michael Fitchett. "If they had not cooperated or if they had panicked it could have been a different scene. The fact that everybody was so calm and collected speaks a lot for them," he

said yesterday. The Fullers vessel *Superflyte* had 311 passengers and six crew aboard when it caught fire on a trip from Waiheke Island to Auckland. When the ferry's steering failed as a result of the fire it anchored between Browns Island and Rangitoto, where the passengers transferred in calm conditions to three other vessels which had been accompanying *Superflyte*. Mr Fitchett said passengers were being contacted to see if they needed any help. "All the luggage that we know of has been couriered back to each of the passengers or they have come in and picked it up. We just want to find out whether they have got any problems as a result of the inconvenience. Fullers staff put out the fire on *Superflyte* before the coastguard, firefighters and police arrived, he said. Mr Fitchett said he would not know the cause of the fire until the outcome of the Maritime Safety Authority investigation. The Transport Accident Investigation Commission is also looking into the fire. *Superflyte* might not return to service for at least a month, said Mr Fitchett, but he was not sure how long it would take. The Maritime Safety Authority general manager of maritime operations, John Mansell, said the accident report would be completed as soon as possible and would be made public.

#### **TAVASTLAND (U.K.)**

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated Aug 18, states: Because of machinery damage c.c. *Tavastland* (7519 gt, built 2003) has for the past day been at the Audorf siding, Kiel Canal. Repairs should be complete last night or this morning. The vessel had sailed Hamburg Sunday (Aug 15). The damage is not connected to the problem the vessel had Jun 14. (Note — *Tavastland* sailed Hamburg 0310, Aug 15, passed Brunsbuttel 0535, same day and subsequently arrived Rauma Aug 20, sailing same day.)

#### **THOR HAWK (DIS)**

Kochi, Aug 24 — C.c. *Thor Hawk* sailed Kochi after completing all repairs, next port of call is Mumbai. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TORM MARY (DIS)**

New Orleans, Aug 24 — *Torm Mary* completed temporary repairs and left Neches River Aug 8 with all cargo onboard. Reportedly the cleanup continued through Aug 13. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TRAKYA (Italy)**

Oristano, Aug 26 — Ro/ro *Trakya* left Oristano 1030, local time, Aug 25 and anchored in the roads to await orders. The vessel subsequently sailed at 1745, same day, for a Genoa shipyard. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **TRIDENT 20 (Liberia)**

London, Aug 24 — A press release from Transocean Inc, dated Houston Jul 27, states: An engine-room fire onboard drill platform *Trident 20*, which occurred on Jul 3, is now expected to idle the rig for approximately four



months. The rig has a three-well contract providing drilling services offshore Turkmenistan. The contract has been suspended by the customer to allow time for rig repairs and the company expects to resume operations upon completion of the repairs. The company is in the process of completing an estimate of the expected costs to repair the rig.

**UNITED STAR (Bangladesh)**

Karachi, Aug 21 — Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) of Bangladesh said today that general cargo *United Star*, laden with 900 metric tons of imported cement clinkers, submerged after it was in collision with local vessel *Nazimuddin* in the Bay of Bengal, last night. An official of CPA told Lloyd's that *United Star* was in contact with *Nazimuddin* at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port at about 2130 hrs while it was approaching toward the jetty with the clinkers offloaded from Singapore flag carrier, *Span Star*. Fifteen crew of the vessel, however, swam ashore. Mostafa Hakim Cement Factory imported the clinkers, port official reported. He said, later the vessel was successfully beached near port and cargo too partially saved. A committee is being formed by the port authority to investigate the matter. But a port official has expressed hope that it will be resolved amicably under local law. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.



**Seizures & Arrests**

**AMARANTH (NIS)**

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Russian Arctic regional border guards have impounded chem.tank *Amarant* (4814 gt, built 2003) in the Russian territorial waters, Interfax news agency reported. The tanker entered Russia's waters without permission, the agency quoted the coast guard department as saying. The vessel was impounded while offloading fuel to a Russian fishing trawler. The agency quoted Norwegian media reports that the tanker had travelled 22 kilometres in Russia's territorial waters and the Russian authorities had been notified about the vessel's whereabouts in advance.

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated Aug 20, states: Chem.tank *Amarant*, which yesterday violated the Russian state border in the Barents Sea, will be escorted out of Russian territorial waters, said the Arctic regional border department of the Russian Federal Security Service. "After noon today, representatives of the Murmansk region prosecutor's office and border guards will ascend on board the tanker. They will hand in to the master the prosecutor's conclusion on the violation of the Russian border, after which the tanker, accompanied by a border guard ship, will be escorted out of Russian territorial waters," said the source. *Amarant*, which provides fuel for fishing vessels in the common Russian-Norwegian economic zone, was detained by sea border guards last Wednesday in Russian waters near Kildin island to the left of the entry to the Kola Bay. The Arctic regional border department said that the tanker entered Russian territorial waters without notifying Russian authorities and without receiving their permission. After the detention, border guards towed *Amarant* to Murmansk, where relevant documents were drawn up on the violation of the Russian state border.

St. Petersburg, Aug 24 — Bunkering tanker *Amaranth* (1726 gt, built 1969), not *Amarant* as previously reported, was impounded in the Barents Sea for violation of the Russian State border Aug 18. Vessel has been released and we understand it is in Norwegian waters. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CAPTAIN DANIEL (Italy)**

Venice, Aug 24 — Bulk *Captain Daniel* was released and sailed Chioggia Aug 6. — Lloyd's Agents.

**CELTIC HORIZON (U.K.)**

Valletta, Aug 25 — According to the current owners of fishery protection *Celtic Horizon*, Cassar Ship Repair Ltd the vessel still in port at their yard. The owners expect the vessel to sail when prospective buyers are found. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ENDEAVOR II (Greece)**

Karachi, Aug 25 — Crude oil tanker *Endeavor II* is still under arrest at Mooring bay FM-2, BOP Keamari, Karachi. — Lloyd's Agents.

**ERTUG (Turkey)**

Novorossiysk, Aug 20 — General cargo *Ertug* arrived Novorossiysk Aug 14 and sailed Aug 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

**HALIA (Isle of Man)**

Antananarivo, Aug 24 — Product tanker *Halia* sailed Toamasina Aug 7 for Durban. — Lloyd's Agents.

**JUPITER (Cyprus)**

St. Petersburg, Aug 23 — Bulk/c.c. *Jupiter* is still under arrest at St. Petersburg. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MAYA V (Uruguay)**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A Perth court has placed three crew members of a Uruguyan boat on a good behaviour bond for illegally fishing in Australian waters. The three Chilean men were crew members on fishing *Maya V*, which the Australian Navy apprehended in the Southern Ocean in February with 202 tonnes of patagonian toothfish and 64 tonnes of sardines on board. In the District Court in Perth today, the men pleaded guilty to a charge of using a foreign vessel to fish in Australian waters. They were placed on a \$6,000 five-year good behaviour bond and were ordered to each pay a fine of \$1,500. Judge Peter Martino said that while the offences were serious, he had imposed a lenient sentence in the hope it would deter the men from fishing in Australian waters again. The men are expected to be deported this week.

**ROMANA I (Panama)**

Port au Prince, Aug 24 — Ro/ro *Romana I* is still at anchor, abandoned. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SEA SERENADE (Cyprus)**

Koper, Aug 24 — Ro/ro *Sea Serenade* is still under repairs at Shipyard Izola. It is anticipated that repairs will not be completed in August. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SEMELI**

**(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Aug 24 — General cargo *Semeli* arrived Aliaga Aug 5.

**SENTINEL (Comoros)**

Genoa, Aug 25 — Ship agents confirm that general cargo *Sentinel* is still under judicial arrest at Genoa port, held/moored at Calata Gadda Pier and that there are no prospects for release. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SKANDI PMS I (Cayman Islands)**

Port Said, Aug 10 — Firefighting tug/supply *Skandi PMS I* arrived Port Said Aug 9. — Lloyd's Agents.

**STATE OF NAGALAND (India)**

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Sri Lanka's high



**INDONESIA**

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The Indonesian navy said today it has arrested seven alleged pirates after c.c. *ACX Hibiscus* (18502 gt, built 1997) was robbed in the Natuna Islands north of Borneo. Four of the suspects were apprehended Saturday (Aug 21), a day after pirates held up the vessel as it travelled from Singapore to Manila, the navy said in a statement. The four were believed to be part of a nine-member group armed with guns and daggers who robbed the cargo vessel on Aug 20, Rear Marshall Didik Herupurnomo was quoted as saying in the statement. Three others were arrested later, said Capt. Kadir, a navy spokesman. (Note — *ACX Hibiscus* sailed Singapore Aug 20 for Manila.)



**PORTUGAL**

See *Faial* under "Marine."

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.

court has ordered the seizure of general cargo *State of Nagaland* (14166 gt, built 1978) which allegedly cut a submarine cable connecting the island's telecommunications subscribers with the rest of the world. The court ordered that *State of Nagaland* be held at the Colombo port where it berthed on Sunday (Aug 22) after accidentally severing the cable known as the SEA-ME-WE-III with its anchor. The submarine cable connecting Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Western Europe was damaged at a point some 10km off the Sri Lankan coast cutting off some 800,000 telephone and internet users. Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT), which is partly owned and fully managed by NTT of Japan, said it suffered a loss of five million dollars following Sunday's damage to the cable and wanted the owners of the vessel to pay it. "SEA-ME-WE-III project maintenance staff are on the site and engaged in the restoration process," SLT said in a statement faxed to journalists. Company officials said they hoped to restore services "in a day or two." The disruption also hit SLT's international call and data services, the company said. Internet services were available only at a few places in the capital where private operators connect to the internet backbone through their own international gateways.

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Sri Lanka has released general cargo *State of Nagaland* after it found no evidence linking the vessel to the damage caused to the island's main submarine cable, the Navy said today. "We were later told that there is no evidence to link this ship to the incident," Navy Director of Operations Jayantha Perera said, adding "we don't know who was responsible for cutting the cable." Some 800,000 telephone and Internet users were cut off but SLT said e-mail services were restored yesterday and it was trying to restore Internet services with ad hoc links through Singapore. But the worldwide web was still only available at a few places in the capital at which private operators connected to the Internet backbone through their own international gateways. "The testing and rectification of the fault became more complicated since the restoration operation has to be carried out without interrupting other international Internet traffic," SLT said in a statement yesterday.

#### **TAI PING QUAN (China)**

London, Aug 24 — General cargo *Tai Ping Quan* is still at Western Anchorage No 1, Hong Kong.

#### **TALAVERA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Venice, Aug 24 — General cargo *Talavera* is still under arrest at Chioggia. — Lloyd's Agents.

## Pipeline Accidents



#### **AAWAZEL, IRAQ**

See "Iraq" under "Political & Civil Unrest."

#### **GUANGZHOU, CHINA**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou evacuated 10,000 people following a leak from a liquid petroleum gas pipeline that injured three people, state media reported Monday. The leak occurred early yesterday morning as a driver was fueling his oil tank truck, the newspaper Southern Metropolitan Daily reported. Alarmed by the escape of a whitish cloud of gas, the driver fled without notifying gas station attendants, it said. A resident of a nearby housing compound also noticed the leak and shouted to others in her building, raising the alarm. Some 10,000 people were evacuated from the area until the leak was repaired a few hours later, the report said. Although three elderly residents of the apartment compound were hospitalised, complaining of breathing problems, the greater risk was of a massive explosion if the gas had been ignited by a spark, it noted. The newspaper said the gas leaked from a loose valve in the underground pipeline of the LPG station, which opened only a few months ago.

## Weather & Navigation



#### **AUSTRALIA**

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Perth residents have endured a wild night, lashed by winds of over 100km/h in the metropolitan area. Perth weather bureau senior forecaster Noel Puzey said wind gusts reached 135km/h at Cape Leeuwin, south of the state capital, while 110km/h winds were recorded in Perth itself. Indian Ocean swells reached 7-8 metres overnight. Western Australian police say there have been no reports of major damage so far. More than 18,000 homes were left without power after a severe weather front swept through Perth and the south-west of the state yesterday. Mr Puzey said the latest bout of severe weather was caused by a strong cold front. He said strong winds and high seas would continue until the middle of the day in Perth, but would contract along the south coast as the front moved through. "We've had no reports of damage yet but it's still very early, and with swells of 7-8 metres, I wouldn't be surprised to see some beach

erosion," Mr Puzey said. Sergeant Andy O'Neill at the WA police operations centre confirmed there had been no reports of major damage. The latest bout of wild weather struck after a Western Power worker died yesterday while trying to restore electricity to houses blacked out in a storm.

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A blanket of fog over Sydney has been causing problems for commuters this morning. Some rail and ferry services have been disrupted because of poor visibility. The Meadowbank to Abbotsford and Rydalmere to Homebush Ferry Services have been cancelled. Trains on the Richmond line are experiencing delays of about 10 minutes. About a dozen flights have been affected into and out of Sydney Airport. Some flights have been diverted to Melbourne and Brisbane. People are being asked to check with their airline before travelling.

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of homes are still without power in Western Australia's south-west after yesterday's wild weather. Western Power deployed all available resources overnight to get supplies back on line, with crews from as far south as Albany called to join the clean-up operation. A total of 10,000 homes and businesses were without power at the height of the storm, with the remainder of services expected to be back to normal later today. Gale-force winds ripped roofs off homes, while powerlines and uprooted trees wreaked havoc on the roads. The storm was the second to hit the region in as many days. The clean-up is expected to take weeks and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

#### **HONG KONG**

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Hong Kong marine chiefs issued a shipping warning today, as thick smog reduced visibility in the world's busiest harbour to dangerous levels. The warning went out early this morning to all vessels approaching the city's teeming port as visibility had dropped to less than two nautical miles. "That's the minimum limit we consider safe," said a spokesman for the government's marine department. "We urge vessel operators to exercise extreme caution." Smog-reduced visibility caused a string of harbour collisions last week when pollution reached harmful levels and shrouded the city in a thick grey cloud. The environmental protection department's pollution gauge edged into the "high" category Tuesday morning and warm, calm weather forecast for later in the day was expected to send it higher. Health alerts had to be issued three days in a row last week warning people with breathing or heart problems to stay indoors. Hong Kong is cloaked by smog that drifts in from the heavily industrialised Pearl River Delta region of neighbouring mainland China. Calm late-summer and autumn air prevents the cocktail of gas and soot from being blown out to sea, trapping it within the city's urban areas and raising pollution levels to "very high".

**HURRICANE "CHARLEY"**

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency today estimated that the damage from Hurricane "Charley" reduced the overall citrus harvest for the upcoming season by 20 percent or nearly \$150 million. The agency pointed out that this figure is for fruit only. It does not represent tree loss and replanting costs or damage costs associated with barns, equipment, processing and packing facilities, which will increase the overall economic loss to the industry. In addition, growers expect more fruit to fall within the next few weeks, further adding to the overall fruit loss. Andy LaVigne, executive vice president and CEO of Lakeland-based growers' membership group Florida Citrus Mutual, said in a media release that \$150 million is a very preliminary figure used to describe losses to the industry due to the hurricane.

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated Aug 25, states: Hurricane "Charley" on Aug 13 killed at least five people and caused a loss of 1 billion US dollars in Cuba, authorities said today. Pedro Saez, Principal Secretary of the Cuban Communist Party for Havana, said five people in Havana province were killed by the hurricane and major damage occurred. He said more than 70,000 houses were hit, with 1,117 destroyed. Some 800 schools and 312 hospitals were affected. Saez said the hurricane resulted in heavy losses in the agricultural sector, water and power supply, as 1,400 poles, 28 high-tension pylons and 291 transformers were torn down. In Havana province several high schools were turned into temporary shelters for hundreds of homeless people. "Charley" packed gusts of up to 200 kilometres-an-hour.

**HURRICANE "DANIELLE"**

London, Aug 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Danielle" was located near lat 30.2N, long 37.0W. Position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north-north-east, 20 degs at one knot. Maximum sustained winds: 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 90 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, zero nautical miles in the other three quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Aug 21, the centre is predicted to be near lat 30.8N, long 37.0W, with maximum sustained winds of 25 knots and gusts of 35 knots.

**HURRICANE "FRANK"**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Frank" was growing rapidly today off the Pacific coast of Mexico. Forecasters said it was likely to grow to hurricane status while heading further out to sea. The storm was located roughly 375 miles south-southwest of the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula and had sustained winds of about 60 mph, according to the U.S. National Hurricane Centre in Miami, Florida. "Frank" was headed to the north-west

at about 12 mph. Forecasters said the storm was likely to reach a maximum force of about 98 mph on Wednesday (Aug 25) The Hurricane Centre's official forecast showed the storm moving steadily to the north-west and fading late in the week over cooler waters. But it said early today that some computer models showed a possibility that the storm could turn and hit the Baja California peninsula and then the U.S. Southwest.

London, Aug 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office dated today: Hurricane "Frank" centre located near lat 20.0N, long 114.4W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north-west or 310 degrees at 10 knots. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 15 nautical miles north-east, south-east, south-west and north-west quadrants. Radius of 50 knot winds 30 nautical miles north-east, south-east, south-west and north-west quadrants. Forecast position lat 21.0N, long 115.5W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Forecast position lat 22.0N, long 117.0W at 0600, UTC, Aug 25. Maximum winds 70 knots, gusts 85 knots.

London, Aug 25 — Following received from the Meteorological Office dated today: Tropical storm "Frank" was located near lat 22.1N, long 116.7W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 15 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-northwest or 285 degrees at eight knots. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 60 knots. Forecast valid 0600, UTC, Aug 26, lat 22.8N, long 119.4W, maximum wind 30 knots, gusts 40 knots.

**NETHERLANDS**

London, Aug 20 — A very fast rising south westerly gale yesterday caused many problems for yachts, ferries and inland cargo ships on the Waddensee and Ijsselmeer in the north of the Netherlands. Various lifeboats had to be called out in many places for almost 20 times to assist ferries and pleasure craft which had problems in the strong winds. The passenger ferries from and to the Frisian Isles Terschelling and Ameland had delays in their schedules and at the isle of Terschelling passenger ro/ro *Midslan* (1812 gt, built 1974) ran aground on the harbour mole and had to be towed off. A push tug with a barge with a cargo of granite had problems on the Ijsselmeer, but was assisted to a safe harbour. The lifeboat, stationed in the Eemshaven, had to sail for a sailing clipper with 23 persons on board, which had problems in the Oostereems. With a force 8 wind and a strong tide it could not manage to reach a harbour and was assisted into the Eemsharbour at 1600, local time. Thereafter the lifeboat sailed again for a yacht above Lauwersoog with two person on board who could not handle the vessel and were also towed into Eemshaven. Also vessels of the Coast Guard sailed out to assist vessels. After 1500 hrs the winds decreased and most of the assistance could be ended

by the lifeboat association. As far as known there were no personal injuries in all these cases. Many events had to be cancelled because it was not safe for the public.

**NEW ZEALAND**

Wellington, Aug 20 — Tens of thousands of people were stranded in the lower North Island yesterday as transport was brought to a standstill by the atrocious weather. Huge waves crashing over the railway line alongside the Wellington motorway stopped trains from entering the city during the morning peak hour. All flights in and out the capital were cancelled, as were ferry sailings. Roading maintenance staff spent much of yesterday clearing vital transport routes across the central and lower North Island. Key routes cut included the Desert Road from Rangipo to Taihape, State Highway 49 from Ohakune to Waiouru, State Highway 47 from Turangi to National Park, the Napier to Taihape road, State Highway 2 over the Rimutaka Hill and State Highway 3 between Woodville and Palmerston North through the Manawatu Gorge. Several Hutt Valley roads were closed due to slips, in the Western Hills, Wainuiomata, Naenae, Wainuiomata, Seaview and Eastbourne. Most routes had reopened by last night. Tranz Metro spokeswoman Helen Keyes said once the high tide receded, trains were able to make their way slowly into Wellington railway station, arriving about 0900 hrs. Early morning services from Wairarapa took almost four hours to reach Wellington. Passengers complained they were left to freeze, with carriage heaters out of action. Paraparaumu trains were cancelled for much of the day, after a tree came down on the lines between Tawa and Linden. The Johnsonville line reopened about 9.30am. Services were further disrupted when a tree fell across power lines near Melling about midday, cutting power between Wellington and Petone stations for about an hour. With the electric trains unable to operate for about an hour, buses were brought in to ferry passengers between the two stations. Tranz Scenic's Capital Connection from Palmerston North and Overlander from Auckland arrived in Wellington about two hours late. One Capital Connection passenger said train signals were out on the main trunk line. Meanwhile, cargo vessel *Tasman Pathfinder* had Wellington Harbour to itself late yesterday afternoon as it sailed into port after a day waiting outside the heads for ferocious storms to abate. With the Cook Strait ferries all either berthed in Wellington or Picton, the vessel was, with ro/ro *Spirit of Competition* which arrived at 1000 hrs, one of only two vessels to enter the port yesterday. Four boats had broken away from their moorings in Porirua Harbour in the high winds, and were now aground. Interisland spokesman Peter Monk said most ferry passengers had rebooked for the weekend, but there remained a huge backlog of freight waiting to move between north and south. Up to 9000 air travellers had their flights cancelled in one of the

worst wind-related disruptions at Wellington International Airport in recent years. A spokeswoman said all 140 flights in and out of Wellington were cancelled yesterday. Massive wind gusts also stripped Air New Zealand's Koru Club lounge of almost all its roofing iron. Airport terminal services manager John Fuller said several aircrafts flying in from overseas yesterday abandoned their attempts to land. During the day, about 300 passengers waited it out at the airport hoping conditions would improve. — Lloyd's Agents.

Wellington, Aug 20 — Ferries are now getting back to normal. Ro/ro *Spirit of Competition* sailed Wellington 0740 hrs for Lyttelton Ro/ro *Kent* sailed Wellington 0900 hrs for Picton. Ro/ro *Santa Regina* berthed at Wellington at 1045 hrs after crossing from Picton. Master estimated 1 to 2 metres swell at Tory Chanel, 4 metres off Karori, so easing down all the time. *Incat 046*, The Lynx, sailed from Picton 1045 hrs, no passengers or cars, crew only, due here 1330-ish, should resume with a 1630 hrs sailing from here to go back. Understand ro/ro *Aratere* will probably sail from Wellington at 1400 this afternoon. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NIGERIA**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Flooding caused by heavy rains has killed at least 12 people with more than 30 hospitalised in northern Nigeria's Gombe State, a senior government official said today. The 14-hour downpour started Saturday (Aug 21) night and continued till the early hours of Sunday, leaving more than 100 houses submerged and vehicles and other valuable properties destroyed, state water resources commissioner David Albashi said. He said a lot of people were still missing following the incident. "The floods affected all parts of the state. We are still collating figures of fatalities. However, by our estimate as at this moment, we are sure of the death of 12 people, while 100 people have lost their homes," he said. He said state officials were assessing the extent of damage to enable them provide relief materials to the victims.

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated Aug 25, states: Fifteen people were killed after heavy rains in a remote Nigerian town, a government spokesman said today, taking to 38 the death toll in flash floods that swept through the northeast region in the last two weeks. At least 3,000 people were displaced and crops, livestock and buildings were washed away in Gombe by the flooding caused by hours of heavy downpour on Saturday, Gombe state spokesman Mohammed Ahmed Yidikawu said. "Fifteen people were killed, 1,500 houses destroyed and 434 families or 3,000 people displaced by the floods," Yidikawu said. It was the worst flooding in the town in 40 years, he said, adding that relief materials have been dispatched to the victims who are now staying with relatives pending their relocation by the government. At least 23 people were

killed and hundreds of families displaced earlier in August in the remote market town of Loko in neighbouring Adamawa state. Heavy rain has caused flooding in several areas but the disaster in Loko was by far been the worst.

#### **RUSSIA**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The Krasnodar Territory in south Russia is summing up the damage caused by the latest heavy rains, a source in the Information Department of the Ministry for Emergency Situations said today. The elements struck the Labinsk and Motovsk districts of the Krasnodar Territory on the night from Saturday and yesterday, when 130 mm of precipitation fell. As a result, the water level rose abruptly in the rivers Chalmyk and Okart and large areas of farmland and small holdings were inundated along with nearly 500 houses. Window glass was smashed in more than 100 houses, and much damage was caused to the interior of the houses. Reported that 20 residential localities remain inundated today in the Labinsk and Mostovsk districts of the Krasnodar Territory. An official of the territorial directorate for civil defence and emergency situations said that households remained flooded in Kutuzov, Pokryshkin and Suvorov streets of the Mostovsk district administration centre. The Upornaya station was the worst hit because the rupture of electricity transmission lines left 1,500 nearby houses without electricity. In the Sladky village, 30 adobe houses are inundated and are likely to be washed away. The Territorial Department source noted that no casualties or fatalities had resulted from the elements. Nearly 100 people, including more than 20 children, were evacuated in time. Nearly 151 people and 43 vehicles are now working to help cleanup and restoration operations.

#### **SOUTH ASIA**

Karachi, Aug 21 — Bangladesh Railway has resumed its operations on seven routes out of 10, which were damaged due to the recent flood. In a statement railway authority said emergency rehabilitation works are in progress for resumption of operation on the three badly damaged routes and private sector may be invited through tenders for assistance. Railway tracks were submerged in water as result, rail communication including cargo and passenger remained suspended on 10 routes since mid-July due to the flood. The three northern routes - Sylhet-Chhatakbar, Jamalpur-Jagannathganj and Dewanganj-Bahadurabad - have been seriously damaged. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **TROPICAL STORM "ESTELLE"**

London, Aug 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Estelle" was located near lat 13.6N, long 136.3W. Position is

accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Present movement is toward the west-north-west, 300 degs, at 12 knots. Maximum sustained winds: 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 100 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant, 50 nautical miles in the other three quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Aug 21, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.4N, long 150.8W, with maximum sustained winds of 50 knots and gusts of 60 knots.

#### **TYPHOON "AERE"**

London, Aug 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Aere" was located near lat 15.2N, long 135.9E. Movement over the past six hours: 345 degs at eight knots. Position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 40 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Aug 21, the centre is predicted to be near lat 18.4N, long 134.1E, with maximum sustained winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Aere" churned toward crowded northern Taiwan today with 99 mph wind gusts, closing schools and financial markets and dumping heavy rains that threatened to trigger flash floods and landslides. Rough seas killed five fishermen in Taiwan and two children in Japan, officials said. "Aere's" eye was expected to sweep over Taipei later today as the storm roars west toward China, the Central Weather Bureau said. The typhoon also was expected to whirl over the busy port of Keelung and Hsinchu, home to the island's world-leading computer chip manufacturers. The outer reaches of "Aere", which means "storm" in the language spoken on the Marshall Islands, began lashing Taiwan this morning. Gusty winds and sheets of rain hit the capital as officials closed school, government offices and financial markets. Officials warned that flights from Taipei's international airport could be suspended later today, when the storm's 80 mph winds reach land. High waves capsized a fishing boat from Hong Kong yesterday as the vessel sailed toward Keelung, the coast guard said. Three fishermen, all from mainland China, were washed overboard. The captain, who was from Hong Kong, was rescued but died at a hospital, officials said. A fishermen also died Sunday (Aug 22). Japanese coast guard officials today that high waves swept away two children, ages 12 and 7, swimming near Japan's southern Amami-Oshima islands. "Aere" was 160 miles east of Taiwan early today, the weather bureau said. The storm's gusts were hitting 99 mph as it lumbered along at 6 mph.

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Air and sea traffic of Taiwan has been disrupted with the coming of Typhoon "Aere" today, according to sources reaching in Hong Kong from Taipei. Typhoon "Aere" is

approaching Taiwan, bringing heavy rains to Taiwan today. Financial markets, public offices and schools were closed in most cities and counties in northern, central and northeastern parts of the island. An aircraft carrying about 100 passengers and crew members skidded off a runway this morning when it landed at an airport in Taipei, leaving no injuries. The airport has cancelled or postponed a number of international or domestic flights. Hong Kong radio stations reported today that the typhoon has left two people dead and three others missing.

London, Aug 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon “Aere” near lat 25.3N, long 123.5E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 320 degrees at five knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots, gusts 100 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 25 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 25 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 25 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 25 nautical miles north-west quadrant, Radius of 50 knot winds 60 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 60 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 60 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles north-west quadrant, Forecast position lat 25.8N, long 122.3E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots, radius of 64 knot winds 20 nautical miles. Forecast position lat 25.6N, long 120.5E at 0600, UTC, Aug 25. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots, gusts 85 knots.

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon “Aere” whipped northern Taiwan with gusty winds and heavy rain today, while China began evacuating 249,000 people from coastal areas as it braced for the storm that has killed at least seven people. Schools and financial markets in Taiwan were closed for a second day as the slow-moving storm whirled just 31 miles north of Taiwan’s northern tip. “Aere” is expected to begin lashing China later today, packing winds of 86mph and gusts of up to 108mph, Taiwan’s Central Weather Bureau said. Howling winds rattled windows in Taipei throughout the night and power lines were ripped away from their poles, leaving 8,912 homes without electricity in Taipei. At least 5,000 people were evacuated from villages in mountainous central Taiwan. Soggy mountain slopes began crumbling yesterday, burying roads with boulders, mud and twisted trees. People waded across streets that were flooded up to their knees in some parts of Taipei. Trees were uprooted and blocking traffic lanes in the capital’s suburbs. Aircraft were grounded at Taipei’s international airport. A China Airlines flight from New York carrying premier Yu Shyi-kun had to land in Japan’s southern island of Okinawa, airport officials said. Hong Kong’s Cathay Pacific Airways said all flights to Hong Kong and elsewhere would be halted and might resume after 1330. Some parts of Taiwan recorded 4.5 feet of rainfall within the past two days, the weather bureau said. Just 100 miles across the Taiwan Strait, Chinese

officials evacuated 249,000 people from coastal areas, China’s government said. Nearly 31,500 fishing boats were called back to port, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. “Aere” is expected to slam into Zhejiang province, south of Shanghai.

London, Aug 25 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon “Aere” was near lat 25.6N, long 120.5E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 275 degrees at nine knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Present maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Forecast valid at 0600, UTC, Aug 26, lat 25.1N, long 117.4E, maximum sustained winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over land.

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: China began mopping up today after sustaining heavy damage from Typhoon “Aere”, as the death toll from the ferocious storm continued to rise in Taiwan and the Philippines. Early reports indicated that a decision by Chinese authorities to evacuate more than one million people before Aere made land in Fujian province paid off, with houses and infrastructure demolished but a limited human toll. “We have only seen seven minor injuries and no deaths so far,” a Fujian provincial government spokesman told Agence France-Presse. “The seven were slightly hurt by falling houses, trees or advertising hoardings,” she said. Three of them were in Gaoshan town in Fuqing city and four in Pingtan County, where the typhoon landed late yesterday afternoon. Damage though was heavy with 8,270 houses destroyed and 46,800 hectares of farmland ruined. The Fujian Water Resources Department said on its website that six reservoirs were badly damaged and 50 dams had been breached. In total, the province moved 937,000 people to safety while neighbouring Zhejiang, fearing a repeat of the chaos caused by Typhoon “Rananim”, evacuated 249,000. Zhejiang reported only one person missing as “Aere” blew itself southwards towards Guangdong province where meteorological officials said winds were easing to force seven. Xinhua news agency reported overnight that 20,000 people in more than 10 villages were trapped by floods in Zhejiang but disaster relief officials in Wenzhou city said they had since been rescued. Elsewhere in China, 10 people were killed and seven were missing after mudslides in south-western Sichuan province sparked by heavy rain unrelated to “Aere”, the China Daily reported. China had braced for Typhoon “Aere” as it tore through the region, claiming at least 19 lives in Taiwan, Japan and the Philippines. In Taiwan, eight people were confirmed dead and 24 missing after rescuers today battled to find 15 villagers believed buried after their homes were wiped out by mudslides in Tochang village. Taiwan was hit hard by the typhoon with financial markets, schools and offices shut for two days as thousands of people in low-lying and mountainous

areas were evacuated after flooding and landslides. Power was cut to some 250,000 households and 770,000 lost water supplies. Rail links between Taipei and eastern coastal cities were interrupted. “Aere” also took its toll on the Philippines, where schools and government offices remained closed in Manila today as emergency workers toiled to restore order after two days of typhoon-induced bad weather. Some 12 people were dead or missing with nearly 16,000 people hunkered down at government-run evacuation centres after soldiers plucked them from flooded residential areas in suburban Manila. Manila International Airport Authority assistant general manager for operations Ding Lina said a Philippine Airlines and China Airlines flight bound for Taipei were cancelled as well as an Asian Spirit flight bound for the municipality of Basco, Batanes province.

### TYPHOON “CHABA”

London, Aug 20 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm “Chaba” was located near lat 14.5N, long 157.0E. Movement over the past six hours: 300 degs at 11 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles and based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 60 knots, gusts 75 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 10 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Aug 21, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.4N, long 153.0E, with maximum sustained winds of 75 knots and gusts to 90 knots.

London, Aug 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon “Chaba” approached Guam and the neighboring Northern Mariana Islands today. Authorities evacuated more than 400 people, set up shelters and shut Guam’s international airport. With maximum sustained winds of 105 mph and gusts to 125 mph, the storm was 135 miles south-east of the Marianas’ capital of Saipan and 180 miles east-northeast of Guam, the National Weather Service said. A typhoon warning was in effect for Rota, Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Agrihan. Guam’s Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport was closed, and 442 people went to seven emergency shelters as winds began to pick up, said Shawn Gumataotao, information officer for the government of Guam.

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A super typhoon that hit the Northern Mariana Islands inflicted over 18 million US dollars in damage, officials said today. No one has been reported killed or seriously hurt after Typhoon “Chaba” cut the territory off from the rest of the world for three days from Saturday (Aug 21) with maximum sustained winds of 290 kilometres per hour. Governor Juan Babauta had since asked US President George Bush to declare the islands a “major disaster area” so it could receive federal assistance. Governor’s Office spokeswoman Jenny Castro said 533 people were still in different public schools turned temporary typhoon

shelters. Flooding was continuing in some areas. A super typhoon is classified as a typhoon in the northwest Pacific that reaches 241 kilometres per hour or more. Meanwhile to the south on Guam, a separate US territory, authorities were mopping up after the storm, which injured four people.

London, Aug 24 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon “Chaba” near lat 18.0N, long 139.6E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours, 315 degrees at 8 knots. Position accurate to within 25 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 150 knots, gusts 180 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 40 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 60 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 60 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 40 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Radius of 50 knot winds 80 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 120 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 120 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 80 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecasts position lat 19.5N, long 138.1E, at 1800, UTC, Aug 24. Maximum sustained winds 145 knots, gusts 175 knots. Forecast position lat 21.2N, long 136.9E, at 0600, UTC, Aug 25.

London, Aug 25 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Super typhoon “Chaba” was near lat 21.2N, long 137.6E, at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 330 degrees at 11 knots. Position accurate to within 25 nautical miles. Present maximum sustained winds 145 knots, gusts 175 knots. Forecast valid at 0600, UTC, Aug 26, lat 24.4N, long 135.8E, maximum sustained winds 135 knots, gusts 165 knots.

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Supertyphoon “Chaba”, and a smaller weather disturbance, “Aere”, are responsible for the torrential rain that flooded Metro Manila yesterday, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said in a bulletin. The two storms enhanced the south-west monsoon, causing it to dump at least 136 millimetres of rain in Metro Manila in just six hours forcing thousands to leave their homes and prompting the government to send students and workers home early. Authorities reported four flood-related deaths, two of them children. In Quezon City alone, the floods forced 1,360 families from 11 villages to move to 12 evacuation centres. Most of them were from Talayan, San Vicente, Del Monte and Marambong. Floods also swamped the cities of Marikina, Mandaluyong, Malabon and Valenzuela, and Cainta and San Mateo in Rizal province.

#### TYPHOON “MEGI”

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated Aug 19, states: At least eight people are presumed dead or missing, in South Korea, and over 2,600 residents have been evacuated from their homes due to heavy rains brought by Typhoon “Megi”, a state-run disaster control centre said today. The typhoon detoured toward northern Japan

around 1500 hrs, yesterday, after passing through southern and eastern coastal areas. The Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters said three people had drowned and two others were swept away by flooding in North and South Cholla provinces. About 1,260 homes in South Cholla Province and Kwangju were inundated with flash floods Wednesday night (Aug 18). Waters in the areas engulfed some 8,158 hectares of farmlands, while wind gusts cut off electricity and disrupted transportation in some southern areas, the disaster centre said. In Cheju Island, sea banks were washed away in several coastal towns and fishery facilities were destroyed or swept away by large waves. Over 100 flights between Seoul and southern regions had been canceled since Wednesday, but most of the canceled routes resumed operations on Thursday afternoon according to the Korea Airports Corporation. Parts of railroads in the Cholla area and railways between Kangnung in Kangwon Province and North Kyongsang Province were blocked due to landslides, the Korean National Railway said. Naju in South Cholla Province had the largest amount of rainfall with 458 millimetres, while Wando Island received 377 mm as of Thursday. Sanchong in South Kyongsang Province recorded 328 mm of rain, Wonju 211 mm and Sokcho 322 mm, according to the disaster agency.

London, Aug 20 — Tropical typhoon “Megi”, that wreaked havoc in southern Japan and South Korea, killing 13 people in three days, has hit northern Japan’s Honshu island. The storm has caused landslides and floods and has led to the electricity for 130,000 homes being cut. Some 47mm of rain fell over some areas in an hour. Wind speeds reached 149km/h. However, “Megi” has now crossed the island and is heading out across the Pacific. Japan’s Meteorological Agency expects “Megi” to be downgraded to a tropical storm later today. The latest fatality from the storm occurred when a man was struck by a flying advertising hoarding. Glass from broken windows has caused a number of other injuries. Some 700 people have been evacuated from their homes due to heavy rains, and 24 flights were cancelled. Separately, a group of around 165 primary school students who were stranded in western Japan by a landslide have been rescued by helicopter. Most of the 10 people killed by typhoon “Megi” in Japan died in floods and mudslides, while two others were swept out to sea some 500 kms west of Tokyo. More than 2,400 people were left homeless after “Megi” lashed the southern shores of South Korea yesterday.

#### TYPHOON “MINDULLE”

Busan, Aug 24 — Chemical oil carrier *No. 1 Dae Bu* is still under permanent repairs at Yeosu with an ETD at the end of September. — Lloyd’s Sub-agents.

#### UKRAINE

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A storm that

raged in Ukraine’s seven western and central regions yesterday, left 256 residential localities without power supplies, a spokesman for the Ukrainian Ministry for Emergency Situations told ITAR-TASS today. The high winds that blew at 25 metres a second activated the automated systems of protection of the power transmission lines. As a result, the Vinnitsy region was the worst hit, as 173 residential areas were left without electricity supply there. Thirty-one residential localities were cut off from the power transmission lines in the Lvov region, twenty-two in the Kiev region, fourteen in the Zhitomer region, eleven in the Ternopol region, three in the Trans-Carpathian region and two in the Volyn region. All electric train traffic ground to a stop on the Kozyatin-Berdichev railway line because the heavy rains and squalls of wind broke the power transmission lines and four pylons on that railway stretch. The traffic resumed by midnight, yesterday with the help of diesel-fuelled locomotives of Ukzaliznitsy Company. As a result of the outrage of the elements, trees broken by a thunderstorm blocked a number of roads.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The Association of British Insurers said about 100 vehicles were wrecked by the 10ft wall of water that surged through Boscastle, North Cornwall last week. More than 80 homes sustained severe damage. Malcolm Tarling, spokesman for the Association of British Insurers, said: “We’re looking at claims totalling around £3m to £4m just for homes and cars. The usual claim for a car is £1,000 and for the homes we’re looking at around £15,000 to £30,000 per claim. It’s too early to tell how long businesses will be affected and what the insurance bill will be for them.” It’s not just Boscastle residents who have experienced turbulent weather this week. A spokesman for Churchill said there had been a 400 per cent increase in household insurance claims across the country since August 10, due to flooding, high winds and rain.

## Earthquakes



#### CHINA

London, Aug 24 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1005, UTC, today, in lat 32.491N, long 92.225E, depth 10 km. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in the Xizang-Qinghai border region.

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale has jolted a mountainous area in Tibet, Chinese state media reported today. The tremor hit Nagqu prefecture north of the Tibetan capital of Lhasa at 1005,

GMT, yesterday, Xinhua news agency said. The prefecture is sparsely populated, and no reports of casualties or serious damage had been received as of this afternoon, according to the agency.

#### INDONESIA

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale rocked the Sumbawa island in the Indonesian province of West Nusa Tenggara at 0403, GMT, yesterday. The epicentre of the quake was 79 km south of the island beneath the Indonesian ocean. The tremor was also felt on the resort island of Bali. The Meteorology and Geophysics Agency in Bali reported in a statement that a minor quake also affected Ngajuk regency in East Java province some 30 minutes after the quake in Sumbawa. The agency said there was no immediate report on casualty and infrastructure damage.

#### JAPAN

London, Aug 21 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale hit small islands in Okinawa Prefecture early today, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. No warning for tsunami tidal waves has been issued and there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the 0238 earthquake.

#### MEXICO

London, Aug 19 — A magnitude 5.8 earthquake occurred in lat 16.49N, long 94.68W at a depth of 64.4 kilometres at 0903, UTC, Aug 18.

### Political & Civil Unrest



#### AFGHANISTAN

Herat, Aug 18 — A renegade Afghan militia commander and a spokesman for the governor of the western province of Herat said today their forces were honouring a ceasefire brokered a day earlier by the U.S. envoy to Afghanistan. U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said he had helped win agreement from both sides to start a ceasefire yesterday afternoon, and obtained militia commander Amanullah Khan's assurance that he would withdraw his forces 30 kms. Amanullah Khan said he was meeting those conditions, relieving a threat to Herat, Afghanistan's second largest city, after his forces had moved within 40 kms of the provincial capital. "The central government had instructed us to make a ceasefire and deliver to the Afghan National Army the areas we had captured," Amanullah Khan told Reuters. "We are obedient to the central government and are ready to comply with its orders," he said. Sayed Nasir Alawi, a spokesman for Herat governor Ismail Khan, said today the fighting had died down, and the Afghan National Army had occupied Shindand

airbase, scene of one of the fiercest battles at the weekend, and Andraskan district. "It is calm. We are observing the ceasefire," he said, adding that government troops were also guarding Herat city's airport. — Reuters.

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated today, states: US and Afghan forces fought militants in two troubled Afghan provinces overnight, leaving four people dead and two injured, officials said. Three Taliban and one Afghan soldier died in a clash which erupted when troops investigated reports that rebels had gathered in southeastern Ghazni province, said Governor Haji Asadullah Khalid. The dead in Ghazni's Nawa district included local Taliban commander Mullah Wazir, Mr Khalid said. Seven more suspected Taliban were arrested, he said. The official said the remaining Taliban fled when US warplanes arrived at the scene. The aircraft didn't fire on the rebels, he said. Afghan and US forces backed by helicopters also fought a four-and-a-half-hour battle with insurgents in eastern Kunar province, the American military said. Eleven insurgents, two of whom were wounded, were detained during the battle near the village of Nangarlam, where American forces have a small base. The US-led troops, which included special forces, also uncovered a weapons cache, a military statement said. It didn't give details.

Kabul, Aug 20 — Time bombs planted by Taliban fighters wounded six police and security officials overnight outside U.N.-Afghan election offices in western Afghanistan, Taliban and police officials told Reuters today. Taliban spokesman Abdul Latif Hakimi said his movement carried out the attack on a U.N.-Afghan Joint Electoral Management Body office in Farah city, capital of a western province of the same name bordering Iran. The first blast inside the compound for voter registration set several vehicles ablaze, and the second outside the compound wounded four police and two Afghan security officers working with the U.N. team, police and Taliban officials said. Mohammad Rassol, head of security in Farah province, said the blasts were detonated by timers set 10 minutes apart. Seven suspects were arrested, he said. — Reuters.

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: United States helicopter gunships, backed by hundreds of Afghan and US-led troops have attacked Taliban hideouts in Afghanistan's mountainous south-eastern province of Khost near the Pakistan border.

#### BANGLADESH

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An angry mob set fire to a passenger train in central Bangladesh yesterday, injuring at least 20 people, in retaliation for a grenade attack on an opposition rally that killed 19 people and wounded hundreds. The train was travelling to the capital, Dhaka, from Chittagong. Riot police fired tear gas shells to disperse the protesters near Bhairab town, 80km

east of Dhaka, said Fazlul Huq, chief traffic controller of state-run Bangladesh Railways. On Saturday (Aug 21), the country's main opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina Wajed, escaped injury when a dozen bombs exploded as she addressed supporters outside her Awami League party's headquarters in Dhaka. Ms Sheikh Hasina suffered internal bleeding in one of her ears "because of the loud explosions", said her doctor. In that attack, at least 19 people were killed and more than 300 injured, including senior opposition members, ATN Bangla TV station reported yesterday. The toll increased after another injured man died in a hospital, it said. Traffic was light on the city's streets as many schools and shops were closed for fear of more violence. Shops and schools also closed in about a dozen Bangladeshi towns to protest against the latest attacks. The Awami League called for nationwide general strikes tomorrow and Wednesday to protest against the bombings.

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Shops and schools were closed across Bangladesh today after government opponents called a general strike to protest a weekend grenade attack at an opposition rally that killed 20 people and wounded more than 300. Senior opposition leader Ivy Rahman, who lost her legs in the attack, died in Dhaka's Combined Military Hospital early today, doctors and her family said, raising the death toll to 20. Hundreds of supporters of the opposition Awami League marched through the streets of the capital Dhaka, shouting "down with the government." Fearing renewed violence during the two-day shutdown, more than 5,000 police and paramilitary troops deployed in Dhaka. No clashes were immediately reported today. In Dhaka, a city of 10 million people, the streets were empty of most vehicles except rickshaws. Students stayed home because their schools were closed. Government offices opened, but few employees showed up for work, witnesses said. On Saturday (Aug 21), at least 20 people were killed when more than a dozen grenades were lobbed into the crowd while opposition leader Sheikh Hasina was speaking outside her Awami League party headquarters on Saturday. Mass protests and violence spread across Bangladesh to protest the attack, putting security forces on high alert. No one has claimed responsibility, but Hasina, who was unharmed, has blamed Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's administration for the attack. "We don't want to see any more death. This repressive government must step down right now," Hasina told reporters late yesterday. The government has denied involvement, and Zia sent a letter to Hasina yesterday expressing "indignation" over the rally attack.

#### BOLIVIA

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated Aug 19, states: Peasant farmers in Bolivia have ended an occupation of foreign-owned oil fields after the government promised to speed-up land

redistribution. But in the south of the country, local people continued to block the main road linking Bolivia with Argentina. Both protests have centered on energy resources, which bring South America's poorest country vital revenue. The armed forces and the police have been dispatched to guard against further occupations. It took the Bolivian government three days to persuade hundreds of landless peasant farmers to end their oil field occupations in the east of the country. But attempts to end the standoff in the south, around the energy-rich city of Villamontes, are proving trickier. Local people there have now been blocking the main road to Argentina and Paraguay for some 10 days. They have also reportedly succeeded in turning off the valves of a foreign-owned gas duct, which provides energy to the nearby city of Tarija. They say their protest will continue until the government brings them a signed decree, proving that its promise to build them a new highway is real. Elsewhere in the country, landless farmers have reportedly re-occupied a property belonging to former President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada. The Landless Movement is also said to be planning a march to Bolivia's main city La Paz, to demand the release of one of its members, accused of taking part in the lynching of a provincial mayor earlier this year.

#### COLOMBIA

Bogota, Aug 17 — The mother of one of three American contractors abducted by guerrillas in Colombia 18 months ago today called on President Alvaro Uribe to negotiate his release and that of other kidnapping victims throughout the country. Jo Rosano, mother of U.S. Defense Department contractor Marc Gonsalves, participated in a march in Bogota's Bolivar Square along with the families of others held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, a group of 17,000 combatants known by its Spanish initials FARC. Gonsalves was taken in February 2003 when the plane carrying him and fellow contractors Thomas Howes and Keith Stansell went down during an anti-drug operation in the southern jungle area of Caqueta. The FARC wants to swap the three Americans together with about 70 politicians, soldiers and police officers for rebels held in government jails. Uribe says he will only do so if the freed guerrillas promise not to go back to war. — Reuters.

Bogota, Aug 19 — The Colombian government today offered to free 50 jailed guerrillas if Marxist rebels release the same number of political and military hostages, some held captive for up to seven years. The offer, made through an unidentified third party, was the first time the government has made a detailed public proposal on the release of hostages and could open a bargaining process with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The group is holding around 50 soldiers, police officers and politicians, together with three U.S. Defense Department contractors, in hidden jungle camps. The rebels have

said they want the government to allow thousands of their members to return to guerrilla ranks in return for the hostages. Government peace negotiator Luis Carlos Restrepo said the government would only free 50, and that they would have to either join government rehabilitation programs or leave the country, guaranteeing they stayed out of a 40-year-old guerrilla war. The rebels have said they oppose that condition. — Reuters.

#### GEORGIA

Tbilisi, Aug 18 — At least two Georgian soldiers were killed and five wounded in artillery fire with separatists in the breakaway region of South Ossetia, Georgian officials said today. Overnight fighting has continued unabated in the province despite a truce that was agreed only last Friday (Aug 13). The commander of Georgian peacekeepers, deployed in South Ossetia under a 1992 peace deal, accused separatists of launching the attack. "The fire was intensive, they were shooting throughout the night," Aleko Kiknadze said. But South Ossetians said they were not the first to shoot. "Our villages, our positions, again came under fire this night," separatist spokeswoman Irina Gagloyeva said. "The Ossetian side was forced to return fire." South Ossetian officials have said a "third force" — Georgian hardliners uncontrolled by the central government — is behind the shootouts. Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania said yesterday that South Ossetians had admitted they did not control all armed men on their territory. Envoys from four parties in the 1992 peace deal — Georgia, Russia, South Ossetia and the Russian province of North Ossetia — met in Tbilisi yesterday to find ways of averting an all-out war in the region. Participants agreed to continue efforts to enforce a truce. Georgia said it would start withdrawing some forces from South Ossetia if the ceasefire holds. — Reuters.

Tbilisi, Aug 19 — Overnight clashes killed six Georgian servicemen in the rebel South Ossetia region, which Tbilisi is trying to bring back under government control, Deputy Security Minister Gigi Ugulava said today. Fighting has flared in recent weeks in South Ossetia, perched in the Caucasus mountains along the border with Russia, and the crisis has drawn fierce criticism from Moscow — seen by Georgia as the region's main sponsor. "Intensive firing continued all night until dawn. By initial estimates, six of our servicemen were killed and seven were injured," Ugulava told Reuters. South Ossetian officials denied Georgian suggestions that the separatist region had also lost troops. "There are no casualties on our side, despite the fact that Ossetian villages were under heavy bombardment all night," said Irina Gagloyeva, spokeswoman for the separatist government. — Reuters.

#### INDIA

Srinagar, Aug 19 — Indian soldiers killed the head of a guerrilla group

fighting for Kashmir's merger with Pakistan in a gunbattle today, hours before President Abdul Kalam began a rare visit to the region, an official said. Manzoorul Islam, identified as the head of the Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen, was in a car in Srinagar, the summer capital of the disputed region, when the gunbattle erupted after soldiers signalled the vehicle to stop. Another militant who was in the car escaped, a spokesman of the paramilitary Border Security Force said. "The killing of the chief is a big success," he said. But there was no immediate comment from Jamiat-ul-Mujahideen, one of nearly a dozen militant groups fighting Indian rule in Muslim-majority Kashmir. In Kashmir, a senior separatist leader dismissed today's gunbattle as fake and said Islam had died in the custody of Indian forces a day earlier. — Reuters.

#### INDONESIA

London, Aug 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven separatist rebels have been killed in the latest clashes to hit the troubled Indonesian province of Aceh, the military said. The Free Aceh Movement (GAM) rebels were shot dead in three separate anti-rebel operations on Thursday (Aug 19), the day President Megawati Sukarnoputri was visiting the resource-rich province, Aceh military spokesman Asep Sapari said. Troops seized two automatic rifles, some 700 rounds of ammunition and a hand gun from the rebels. Sapari also accused the guerrillas of killing three civilians, one of them a retired policeman, after they refused to give money to the rebels. He said two GAM members also surrendered to authorities.

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Six separatist rebels have been killed in a bloody day of violence in the troubled Indonesian province of Aceh, the military said yesterday. Four guerrillas were shot dead during a raid on a suspected hideout of the separatist Free Aceh Movement (GAM) in Pidie regency on Saturday (Aug 21), military spokesman Lt. Col. Asep Sapari said. The two other rebels were killed separately in clashes elsewhere in Aceh on the same day, he said. Rifles, a hand gun and ammunitions were seized from the victims. Troops also captured three rebels yesterday, including a female guerrilla member in South Aceh.

#### IRAQ

Falluja, Aug 20 — U.S. warplanes attacked targets in Iraq's Sunni Muslim city of Falluja for a second time today, witnesses said. They said the planes fired three rockets into the industrial zone of the city. There was no immediate word on casualties. A similar raid overnight killed five people and wounded six, hospital sources said. — Reuters.

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated today, states: US warplanes and tanks have been bombarding areas around the Imam Ali shrine in Najaf. Radical Shia cleric Moqtada Sadr has continued to defy demands to end his insurgency, despite a "final call" from



Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi. Orange flashes lit up the night sky as US warplanes flew overhead and thick black smoke rose from the old city. The fighting died down a few hours before dawn and there as yet is no word on casualty figures. More than 1,000 Sadr supporters are in the Imam Ali shrine. A letter, purportedly from Mr Sadr, said he would turn the shrine over to senior clerics, who would also decide the fate of his Medhi army militia. However, its authenticity has not been confirmed, and Mr Sadr is still refusing to disband his militia.

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Insurgents have broken into the headquarters of an Iraqi oil company in the southern city of Basra and set fire to warehouses and offices, reports say. "It was not an accident. The fire is huge," a South Oil Company official told Reuters news agency. Militants loyal to the cleric Moqtada Sadr had threatened to sabotage oil infrastructure in protest against the continuing clashes in Najaf. About 90% of Iraq's oil exports go through Basra. It is unclear how they might be affected by the attack. There have been dozens of small attacks on Iraq's pipelines and its oil infrastructure, leading to a reduction in exports over the past two months. Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has said that the fighting in Najaf has cost the country \$160m in lost oil exports. Oil Minister Thamer al-Ghadhban said sabotage attacks had cost Iraq \$2.7bn since the start of the US-led invasion, Reuters reported.

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A local pipeline linking the main northern Iraqi oilfields of Kirkuk to the Baiji refinery was damaged when a makeshift bomb exploded, hampering oil distribution, said a security source. The bomb detonated at 0830 hrs (0230, UTC), 30 kilometres west of Kirkuk, said fire fighter Ali Abdullah attached to the state-run North Oil Company, giving no further details.

London, Aug 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Insurgents bombed today an oil pipeline in southern Iraq that had not been in use for several days, setting it ablaze, security forces in the area said. That attack took place at Berjisiya, 35km south-west of the southern city of Basra, said Lieutenant Mohammed al-Mousawi of the Iraqi National Guard. The pipeline, which connects the Rumeila oilfields with export storage tanks in the Faw peninsula, had been shutdown for a week due to threats from insurgents, and it was unclear what effect the bombing would have on exports. "The aim behind attack is to damage the pipeline in case it is turned on again," Lt. al-Mousawi said. The bomb exploded near a pipeline valve, he said. National Guard troops discovered and defused a second bomb nearby, he said.

London, Aug 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Oil exports from the south of Iraq are back to their normal level of 85,000 barrels an hour since last night, an official of the South Oil Company told AFP today. "Oil exports

through the two pipelines are back to normal since Saturday night to the two terminals at Basra and Khor al-Amaya," the official said. "The average output has reached 85,000 barrels an hour (about 1.9 million barrels a day)." For 13 days, exports were down to between 36,000 and 42,000 barrels a day due to threats by Shiite militia loyal to Moqtada al-Sadr to blow up oil pipelines feeding the two southern terminals. One of the pipelines was closed entirely for security reasons and the other was pumping just 25,000 barrels an hour to Basra and between 15,000 and 17,000 to Khor al-Amaya. The official did not say why they had decided to resume full production but the shutdown meant the country was losing \$US30 million a day in oil revenue, the government said. In normal times, Iraq exports around 1.8 million barrels a day through its southern terminals. The disruption to Iraqi exports helped world prices to record highs of approaching \$US50 a barrel in New York last week.

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Nine people, including a Turkish national, were killed in a string of deadly roadside attacks across Iraq, police and the US military said today. "Three workers, two Iraqi and one Turkish citizen, were killed when anti-Iraqi forces attacked them as they were travelling from their work to Kirkuk on August 22 at about 1725 hrs," a military spokesman said. "The workers were from the Tikrit Bridge Construction Team repairing a bridge over the Tigris River," he added. Found at dawn, dumped by the motorway between Tikrit and the oil refinery town of Beiji, a businessman of Jordanian origin was found stabbed to death along with two other men, presumed to be his bodyguards, police and medics said. In the main southern city of Basra, a police officer was shot dead by an unknown assailant, while further attacks in the north of the violence-ridden country left two other Iraqis dead. An AFP correspondent saw a masked man walk up to a car at a petrol station in Basra and fire two bullets into the head of the policeman sitting behind the wheel. He tried to shoot a woman next to him but missed. Lieutenant Amar Hamid confirmed the policeman died after being shot in the head. In the ethnically divided northern oil centre of Kirkuk, a member of one of the two main Kurdish parties - the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan - was also shot dead in his car this morning, police there said.

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: An important gas pipeline in southern Iraq was on fire today after an act of sabotage, a spokesman for the Hilla Oil Company said. "Unidentified attackers caused an explosion today in a gas pipeline used to transport liquid gas from the province of Basra to the other towns in the south, setting off a fire in the pipeline," Muayyed Yussef, a company engineer, said. "The explosion happened at 0700 hrs at Aawazel, a region about 30km south of Hilla", which is 100km south of Baghdad, he added. The pipeline feeds

the south of Iraq with gas for local consumption, but the fire was still raging at the end of the morning and teams of firefighters were on the scene trying to get the blaze under control, Mr Yussef said.

## ISRAEL

London, Aug 18 — Israel has confirmed that it was behind an explosion at a house in Gaza City which killed five people, including a number of known militants. Palestinian witnesses were divided over whether an air-launched rocket or a ground device had gone off at the home of Hamas activist Ahmed al-Jabari. A spokeswoman for the Israeli military said only that the army had "targeted a senior Hamas terrorist". It is unclear if Mr Jabari was injured in the explosion, which started a fire. Palestinian hospital sources said at least some of the dead from the blast in the city's Shajaiyeh district were Hamas members. Unconfirmed reports said relatives of Mr Jabari were among the casualties. According to conflicting reports, Mr Jabari was either wounded in the leg or escaped unharmed.

## NEPAL

Kathmandu, Aug 18 — Maoist rebels, fighting to topple Nepal's constitutional monarchy, cut off all land routes to the Himalayan kingdom's capital today, disrupting food and supplies to the city of 1.5 million people. All roads leading to the city were nearly empty as buses, trucks and cars stayed off the highways due to a threat from rebels who enforced the first ever blockade of the capital. Officials said troops were on high alert on highways. Rebels are demanding the release of detained guerrillas, a probe into alleged killings of Maoist activists and information about thousands of missing comrades. They control large swathes of the countryside in the desperately poor Himalayan nation and in the past have enforced transport strikes in Kathmandu and local blockades outside. The Maoists have stepped up attacks along the cities and southern plains since peace talks collapsed last year but have spared the high security national capital from major attacks. "The Maoists are now targeting Kathmandu to show their strength," said widely read Nepali magazine, Himal. Ten top industries and businesses have been shut since yesterday due to the threat from rebels who accuse them of unfair labour practices. Authorities, who have not commented on the rebel demand, also blame the Maoists for Monday's (Aug 16) bomb blasts in Nepal's oldest luxury hotel that caused no injuries. — Reuters.

Kathmandu, Aug 19 — The fear of attack kept most vehicles off roads leading to Nepal's capital for a second day today as authorities sought talks to end a siege called by Maoist insurgents. The call for an indefinite blockade by the guerrillas, who have threatened to attack vehicles that violate it, has disrupted the supply of food and goods to Kathmandu, a city of 1.5 million people situated in a valley ringed by hills. But life was largely unaffected,

Kathmandu residents said, and there was no sign of panic buying. The guerrillas have not physically stopped the movement of vehicles in and out of Kathmandu since the blockade began yesterday and there has been no violence. But the fear of the Maoists' deadly hit-and-run tactics have forced people to fall in line, analysts said, barring a handful of vehicles that have army escorts. Deputy Prime Minister Bharat Mohan Adhikary urged the rebels to begin peace talks. — Reuters.

Kathmandu, Aug 20 — Suspected Maoist guerrillas set off two bombs in and around Nepal's capital today, wounding two people as the commercial centre remained cut off for a third day by a rebel-imposed blockade. Two men shot and wounded a policeman guarding a government building in central Kathmandu before they entered the building and planted a crude bomb under a staircase, police said. The blast, which also wounded a passing motorcyclist, left twisted metal frames and glass littering the area around the city's busy Dilli Bazar area. Hours earlier, suspected rebels set off a bomb at an empty police post on the outskirts of Kathmandu. The blasts are seen as an attempt to scare people and ensure the blockade of major roads into the city is not violated. The unprecedented siege of Kathmandu began on Wednesday (Aug 18) and is being enforced through fear of attack by the Maoists. They have not blocked highways or prevented vehicles from moving in and out of the hill-ringed capital but drivers are too scared to take the risk and the amount of traffic has plunged. "The number of vehicles on the highway has further reduced to a trickle," a resident told Reuters from Nagdhunga, 20 km south of Kathmandu, the main entry point to the capital of the landlocked Himalayan nation. The southern highway from India is Kathmandu's lifeline, carrying 90 percent of the city's supplies. The blockade has begun to bite, triggering fuel rationing and driving up food prices in the city of 1.5 million people. — Reuters.

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: As the blockade imposed on Nepal's capital by Maoist rebels entered its fifth day yesterday, thousands of demonstrators marched through central Kathmandu urging the guerrillas to call off their closure of routes and shutdown of industries. Police in Nepal say more than 1,000 Maoist rebels have stormed a district headquarters in the country's north-west, bombing government buildings and killing at least one soldier. Police say the rebels attacked the headquarters of the Jumla district late Saturday (Aug 21) and fought security forces for about six hours. They say the exact casualty figure is not clear, but one soldier was killed and six policemen are missing.

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Rebels blockading the main road to the Nepalese capital ambushed an army truck today, killing at least four soldiers and wounding two others shortly after troops defused a roadside bomb, officials said. The attack

outside Kathmandu came a day after the government refused to release jailed insurgents — a key demand by the guerrillas who have isolated the capital for a week. Rebels opened fire on the truck from hills overlooking the Arniko highway, which is popular with tourists because it's the only route between Kathmandu and Tibet. Four soldiers were killed and two injured in the ambush, said Royal Nepalese Army spokesman Brig Gen Rajendra Thapa. He said additional troops had been sent to hunt for the attackers in the area, about 60 miles from Kathmandu. The truck was carrying soldiers who had earlier cleared away trees that the rebels had felled to block another section of the highway. Elsewhere in the area, soldiers had defused a bomb planted by insurgents, the army said. The government again urged the rebels to join peace talks yesterday, but said it was not ready to bow to a demand to free jailed guerrillas. "We need to start the talks without setting any preconditions," Deputy Prime Minister Bharat Mohan Adhikari said. "The government is ready to go to any length to resolve the crisis, but first let us start the talks." Peace negotiators, however, said the government had no contact with the rebels and was doing little to begin the peace talks. "The government has not taken any initiative for the peace talks. How can we expect the rebels to come for the talks just by listening to appeals on the radio?" said Padma Ratna Tuladhar, who had negotiated previous contacts between the government and the rebels. The government had agreed last week to another key rebel demand to investigate and make public the whereabouts and condition of missing guerrillas. Rebels walked out of peace talks and withdrew from a seven-month cease-fire last August. Fearing violence from the rebels, many people have been unwilling to challenge the blockade, which started last Wednesday (Aug 18). Rebels have detonated several bombs in the capital and fatally shot two people to scare residents off the roads.

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated Aug 25, states: A week long blockade by Maoist rebels of Nepal's capital city Kathmandu has been lifted. The rebels have released a statement saying the threat of reprisals directed at transport workers using roads into the capital will be suspended for a month. It was a blockade imposed by fear rather than force. For one week very few vehicles travelled the five highways into Kathmandu after Nepal's Maoist rebels threatened to cut the hands off any drivers who defied them. With promises of government security, road users were becoming increasingly defiant. That reality plus complaints that only the poor were suffering shortages, has persuaded at least some of the Maoist leadership to sign a statement declaring that the blockade will be suspended for a month. A key demand connected to the blockade, that Maoist rebel prisoners be released, was not met by the government.

## PAKISTAN

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated Aug 18, states: The Pakistani government has offered rewards totalling more than \$1m for information leading to the capture of six leading al-Qaeda suspects. The "most wanted" list appeared on the front page of two leading newspapers. Rewards of 20m rupees (\$340,000) each were placed on the heads of Abu Faraj al-Libbi and Amjad Hussain. The pair are suspected of being the main planners of two assassination attempts on President Pervez Musharraf last December. A senior Pakistani security official told the AFP agency the government believed, Faraj, a Libyan, was ranked third in the al-Qaeda hierarchy behind Osama bin Laden and his Egyptian deputy Ayman al-Zawahri. The official said Faraj, alias Dr Taufeeq, replaced Khalid Sheikh Mohammed who was captured in Pakistan in March last year. "Faraj heads the international operational wing of al-Qaeda, with the help of an Egyptian accomplice, Abu Hamza Rabia," he said. Apart from Faraj, those named are all Pakistanis. Amjad Hussain, alias Amjad Farooqi, has also been indicted for the kidnapping and killing of US journalist Daniel Pearl in January 2002. The other four are said to be members of two banned Islamic extremist groups that have close links with al-Qaeda. All of the suspected militants are wanted for bomb explosions and other crimes committed within Pakistan rather than outside the country. The rewards offer continues a government crackdown on al-Qaeda that has led to the arrest of more than 60 suspects in Pakistan in the past month. The breakthrough was the arrest in mid-July of an alleged al-Qaeda communication expert, Naeem Noor Khan. According to President Musharraf, the Pakistani security forces have uprooted al-Qaeda operatives from their safe houses in the tribal region near the Afghan border and the authorities are determined to wipe them out from the rest of the country.

## RUSSIA

London, Aug 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Up to seven people were killed today in an attack on a police station in Grozny, the capital of the Russian breakaway republic of Chechnya, the Interfax news agency reported. "Several (Chechen separatist) guerrillas were destroyed. There are losses among (pro-Russian) servicemen too," a spokesman for the Russian forces in the North Caucasus, Major-general Ilya Shabalkin, told Interfax. Seven people, including five policemen, were killed in the attack, in which assailants open fire on the police station from a car, Interfax said, quoting "preliminary, unconfirmed reports". Several others were wounded in the incident, Interfax reported. War-torn Chechnya is to hold a presidential election on August 29, after its pro-Russian leader, Akhmad Kadyrov, was killed in a bomb attack last May.

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Russian artillery

strikes killed 12 rebels today outside Chechnya's capital Grozny, the Interfax news agency said, citing a military spokesman. The bodies of five rebels were found about 6 miles south of Grozny after the area was shelled by Russian forces, and that seven others were found in a separate spot, Interfax quoted Maj. Gen. Ilya Shabalkin. Shabalkin said the rebels were believed to have been part of a group that came under attack Saturday (Aug 21) night, amid heavy fighting in Grozny. Saturday's fighting was some of the deadliest in the capital in months. Accounts of casualties have varied but an official in Chechnya's Moscow-backed government said Sunday that more than 30 people were killed, including at least 23 Chechen police or Russian servicemen and some civilians in attacks on police stations and patrols. Another official said at least 41 people died - not including rebels - and Russian media, without citing sources, have put the toll even higher.

### SPAIN

London, Aug 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Two bombs exploded today in two coastal towns in north-western Spain, after a tip-off by a caller claiming to represent the Basque separatist organisation ETA, an Interior Ministry spokesman said. One of the blasts, in a parking lot at the beach in the Galician town of Sanxenxo, slightly injured one person, while the other went off in the marina of Baiona, which police had evacuated. A man who described himself as a member of ETA had warned of the imminent explosions in a phone call to the separatist Basque newspaper Gara. The blasts took to seven the number of attacks over the past two weeks to hit tourist spots along the north-western Spanish coast. They have caused some damage and one other injury.

### SRI LANKA

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated Aug 23, states: Sporadic attacks by Tamil rebels and one of their breakaway groups were continuing in the eastern part of Sri Lanka despite a Norwegian-backed ceasefire in operation pending the resumption of talks between rebels and the government, military officials said today. Suspected Tamil rebels today in apparent retaliation attacked an army route-clearing patrol in the Mankerny area, 260 kilometres east of the capital, injuring a soldier. Attacks on the military have been mounted by the rebels as they suspect that the security forces were backing the breakaway group from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Today's attack came following an incident on Friday (Aug 20) where two key LTTE members were gunned down in the same area by the breakaway group which is led by renegade regional military wing leader Karuna. One of the rebel members killed was the former political wing leader for the region while the other was in charge of rehabilitation activities in the area. On Saturday an army officer and a soldier were

seriously injured in a grenade attack in the same area while a police officer was killed in the eastern province. Rebels today called for a protest campaign in the eastern Ampara district where the funerals of the two rebels were held yesterday. Shops were closed and private transport was at a standstill in the district due to the protest campaign. Over the past three weeks more than 25 people have been killed in attacks by the rebels and rival groups in the eastern province and in the capital. Rebels last Monday assassinated a key activist of another rival group in Colombo. The rival group, known as the Eelam People's Democratic Party (EPDP), is another group which is opposing the rebels who control certain areas in the north and eastern parts of the country. The rivalry killings have been a setback to the resumption of the Norwegian-backed peace talks between the government and the LTTE and have also endangered the Scandinavian-monitored ceasefire. Resumption of peace talks between the government and the LTTE has been further delayed due to disagreement on the proposals sent by the rebels to establish an Interim Self-Governing Authority (ISGA).

### SUDAN

Khartoum, Aug 23 — Fighters from two Darfur rebel groups surrendered to Sudanese authorities in Northern Darfur state and said foreign intelligence forces were supporting rebel leaders, Sudan's armed forces spokesman said today. "Eighteen rebels from the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) gave themselves up today in the morning in El-Fasher to the Northern Darfur state authorities and handed in their arms," Mohamed Bashir Suleiman told Reuters. He said the governor of Northern Darfur, Osman Kebir, and military and security leaders greeted them, and Kebir set the rebels free as part of a general amnesty for armed men in Darfur. "They said the rebel leaders had exploited them and Darfur for their personal issues," said Suleiman. "They said foreign intelligence forces used to meet rebel leaders in hotels outside of Sudan and give them money," he added. He did not say which countries. The rebels were not immediately available to comment. — Reuters.

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The second day of the African Union's Sudanese peace talks have ended in a deadlock after Darfur's rebel groups rejected the agenda, backtracking on an earlier promise to push forward with negotiations. Delegates will now return to the table later today to discuss the agenda after rebel leaders objected to a reference to the "cantonment" or demobilisation of their armed forces. "We need this issue specifically, the issue of cantonment, taken out of the agenda," Ahmed Mohammed Tugod, chief negotiator of

the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), said. According to the Daily Star, less than a week before a critical UN Security Council meeting on Darfur, Amnesty International on Wednesday accused the government in Khartoum of intimidating and imprisoning scores of Sudanese villagers, journalists, translators, lawyers and human rights activists who dared to speak out about a conflict that has left more than 30,000 people dead and more than a million displaced. In a report titled Intimidation and denial: Attacks on Freedom of Expression in Darfur, Amnesty added to the international pressure on the Sudanese government with only a few days remaining before a 30-day deadline set by the Security Council for disarming the Janjaweed militias and punishing those guilty of abuses elapses. The two sides signed a ceasefire in April, but each accuses the other of violating it.

### THAILAND

London, Aug 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Three bombs exploded in a provincial capital in Thailand's troubled south, wounding 13 people and damaging more than 30 vehicles in the latest violence blamed on Islamic militants. The bombs hidden in cars and motorcycles blew up almost simultaneously outside karaoke bars and in hotel parking lots in the capital of Yala province shortly before midnight yesterday, police said. Somsak said 13 people were injured and more than 30 vehicles damaged. Thailand's southern provinces near Malaysia have been wracked by violence in recent months. More than 330 people have died since January in a spate of attacks blamed largely on a revived Islamic insurgency.

### TURKEY

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven people were injured when a bomb exploded overnight outside a bank in Dordyol Township in Turkey's southern Hatay province, semi-official Anatolia news agency reported yesterday. The bomb, which was planted in front of an ATM of the Is Bankasi bank, exploded late Tuesday night (Aug 24), injuring seven passers-by. Windows of several houses nearby were also broken and a bakery was damaged. The injured were immediately sent to the hospital and were in good conditions, according to Anatolia. "We think the explosion could be an act of terrorism," said Hatay police chief Cafer Sahin after an investigation on the spot. He added that technical studies were underway to find out the type of the bomb. On Monday, one person was killed and another injured in an explosion possibly caused by a bomb in the Mediterranean Turkish resort of Antalya. Two suspects were detained, according to the police. Kurdish rebels recently warned they might target tourist resorts in Turkey as part of their separatist struggle.

## Labour Disputes

**BANGLADESH**

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

**COSTA RICA**

San Jose, Aug 25 — There has been a transport strike, that for the past two days has closed the entrances and exits of the ports, borders and important roads. — Lloyd's Agents.

**INDIA**

Mumbai, Aug 21 — The Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT), which is operated by P&O Ports, at 1400, Aug 18 closed its export gate indefinitely. As of yesterday, NSICT is struggling with as many as 16,600 containers, of which 12,300 are import boxes, said a senior NSICT official. This is as against NSICT's storage capacity of 11,500 containers. Truckers and transport operators under the banner of the All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) have decided to go on a nationwide indefinite strike from today in protest against the imposition of service tax. Trucks, tempos and oil tankers will all stop plying from today. The associations have already stopped booking of vehicles from Aug 19. Loading of any vehicle will not be accepted from today. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike by India's biggest group of truck owners has moved into its third day, as a row over a new tax continues. About 60% of goods in India are carried by road, so the stoppage has led to fears of goods shortages that could fuel already-high inflation. Truck owners are demanding that the government withdraw a proposed 10% tax on freight bookings, saying it will hurt their business. Indian press reports said talks between the two sides might happen today. The strike co-ordinators, the All India Motor Transport Congress (Aimtc), said nearly 2.5 million trucks were off the road today. "We are determined not to pull out of the strike till the government withdraws these new tax proposals," said Aimtc president BN Dhumal. Aimtc has threatened to escalate the stoppage if the government does not back down. "The remaining trucks, like tankers carrying oil, milk, vegetables and medicines will join in from tomorrow if the government does not listen to us," said Mr Dhumal. The Finance Ministry has issued a statement calling for public patience until it is able to explain to the truck operators that the tax on freight bookings does not affect them, only freight agencies. But the explanation failed to satisfy Aimtc, which argued that the line between freight agencies and truck operators is often blurred, and many of its members will have to pay the tax. There were signs today

that the strike has started to bite, though companies and households have stockpiled supplies. However, motor scooter maker Bajaj, which exports to the US, said today it was struggling to ship goods from its factories. Shipments were "very close to stoppage," said executive director Sanjiv Bajaj.

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Banking operations came to a halt as the nation-wide one-day bank strike, called by nine major unions, began today to demand an early decision on the wage revision. While the banks' management, represented by Indian Banks Association, pitched for 9.5% hike, the unions have asked for a 16% hike in salaries of officers and sub staff. Agitated over "negative" attitude of the Centre and IBA, the employees owing allegiance to AIBEA, AIBOC, NCBE, AIBOA, BEFI, INBEF, INBOC, NOBW and NOBO — affiliated to Congress, Left or Sangh parivar — are participating in the token strike. United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), an umbrella entity comprising four bank officers' unions and five bank employees' unions, said if the demands are not met immediately, it would chalk out further course of action on Aug 25 at its central committee's meeting in Mumbai. NOBO has also warned of a two-day strike in September if the demands of the bank employees are not settled amicably by this month. The Eighth Bipartite settlement for wage revision is due for bank employees since November 1, 2002 but has not been settled because of negative attitude of Central government and Indian Banks Association, the unions alleged. At present, all the banks, particularly the public sector banks, are maintaining a reasonable profitability, and during 1999-2003, the per employee business had risen from Rs 1.25 crore to Rs 2.16 crore and per employee profit to Rs 1.77 lakh from Rs 0.90 lakh, the unions said.

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of truckers stayed off the roads for the fifth day today to protest a new service tax, disrupting movement of goods and pushing up prices. The All India Motor Transport Congress, the country's largest truck union with nearly 3 million vehicles, rejected appeal by Finance Minister P Chidambaram yesterday to end the strike saying the agitation would continue till the government withdraws the 10 per cent service tax. "The strike is total in all parts of the country. There is no loading or unloading of goods taking place anywhere in the country," said B N Dhumal, president, AIMTC. Chidambaram at a late night press conference had clarified that the new tax would only apply to booking agents and not to truck owners or transporters. AIMTC president B N Dhumal said: "They (the government) are making futile attempts to divide the transport community into different segments. What they ignore is that all the different components of the industry are neatly woven together and have a symbiotic relation. Any change or problem in one segment disturbs the whole chain. Therefore, it is childish to

claim that only the goods booking agencies are to pay service tax and that the truck owners/operators shall not be affected by it. In fact, it is impossible to segregate the two." The strike could fuel inflation, which hit a three-and-a-half-year high of 7.96 per cent.

Mumbai, Aug 26 — The truck operators' strike has hit India ports. Though vessel operations continued unaffected, cargo clearance from ports and transportation of export cargo has been hit badly. Jawaharlal Nehru Port, which is in the throws of a severe congestion, is facing a tough challenge in clearing its containers, mostly heading to inland container depots. Senior port officials confirmed that the strike has affected cargo clearance. Trailer movement at various ports has been affected, with upcountry traffic having come to a halt. Many container vessels, which called at Jawaharlal Nehru and Mumbai over the last two days, could load only a few boxes, and the strike has also paralyzed the movement of import containers by road. A senior port official in Mumbai said the port handled 15 vessels on Aug 23, including two container vessels and two palm oil vessels. He said the movement of containers from port to CFSs was normal, but movement of cargo from the port to consignee and vice versa was completely paralyzed. — Lloyd's Agents.

**RUSSIA**

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Freight shipments began bypassing St. Petersburg Sea Port, heading for the ports in the Baltic States instead, due to the on-going dockers' strike at the city port. Over 100 companies, including ship owners and shipping agents, became hostages of the strike, each of them losing thousands of US dollars, Delovoi Peterburg reported yesterday. The vessels that have already arrived have been forced to wait for weeks, while other vessels have turned west and gone to the Baltic states. St. Petersburg Sea Port has not declared force majeure circumstances, therefore, each company working at the port is paying euros 2,000 in daily fines for the delay, Delovoi Peterburg said. The total losses the companies working at St. Petersburg Sea Port are bearing have topped \$1 million, which is hurting the port's reputation, the newspaper said. "The port is not willing to compromise with the dockers, and we are experiencing huge losses due to broken terms of delivery. But we can understand the port — the dockers' wages are already higher than average and cannot be raised," a shipping agent told Delovoi Peterburg. Dozens of vessels have accumulated at the port and nearly 1,000 carriages at the Novy Port station of the Oktyabrskaya railroad. The port's net profits in the first half of 2004 fell by 50%, Interfax reported yesterday. St. Petersburg Sea Port has been virtually paralysed since Jul 19, when the dockers began demanding that the port's new owner, the Novolipetsk Metallurgical Combine, or NLMC, raise their salaries. The

dockers complete the daily hours stated in their contracts, but refuse to work overtime. At the same time, the strike is costing them nearly half their monthly earnings, largely depending on overtime hours. The strike began as the port switched to a domestic owner from an offshore company. Based on combined reports, off-shore Nasdor Anstalt sold its controlling package of the port's shares to a Danish metallurgical company Jysk Stalindustri, acting on behalf of NLMC, in June. On Jun 22, the controlling package was passed to the Depository and Clearing Company for a nominal holding. The partakers did not publish the amount of the deal. According to last month's Kommersant Vlast magazine, the deal amounted to at least \$100 million. In addition to the controlling package, NLMC also purchased 81% of the shares in the port's First, Second and Fourth Stevedoring Companies, that ship exported metal, coal, fertilisers and oil products. The port's other largest shareholders are the city property management committee with 28.79% and the ministry of economic development with 20%.

## Awards & Settlements



### PIPELINE LEAK, SUNBURST, MONTANA, UNITED STATES

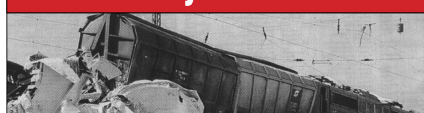
London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated Aug 19, states: A jury has ordered Texaco to pay \$15 million to finish cleaning up a 1955 gasoline pipeline spill in a small town, and \$25 million in punitive damages for not doing it sooner. Texaco had argued that the cleanup in Sunburst, in northwestern Montana, was unnecessary because there was no evidence anyone's health was at risk. The company said the contamination is 10 feet below ground in groundwater too briny for drinking or watering. The Cascade County jury yesterday awarded the plaintiffs \$15 million in cleanup costs, \$350,000 to cover the plaintiffs' costs of investigating the problem and \$767,500 in damages for creating a public nuisance and violating the plaintiffs' right to a clean environment. Jurors awarded the punitive damages today. District Judge Thomas McKittrick must hold a hearing to determine whether the punitive damages are reasonable. "We were very pleased with the verdict, because first and foremost it will allow the Sunburst plaintiffs to clean up the contamination," said plaintiffs' attorney David Slovak. Dan Johnson, government and public affairs manager for Texaco in the Rockies, said the company will appeal. The lawsuit revolved around a 19-acre underground plume of contaminants left after a pipeline leak at the now-defunct Sunburst Works Refinery. The company did pump some of the gasoline from the

ground in the two years after the pipeline leak, but gasoline-related toxins, including the carcinogen benzene, remain in Sunburst's groundwater and soil. The lawsuit, filed in 2001, argued that Texaco's plan to monitor the groundwater while nature continued to filter out the chemicals would take too long. McKittrick had ruled that Texaco could not include in its defense that the Montana Department of Environmental Quality supports the idea of letting nature clean up the spill over time. The 82 plaintiffs in the case include the Sunburst School District.

### ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A Missouri appeals court yesterday reinstated a jury's \$8.5 million award to the family of a boy paralyzed in a car seat. The ruling by the three-judge panel reversed a St. Louis judge's 2002 decision to order a retrial, at the request of car-seat maker Evenflo Co., on claims that punitive damages were wrongly awarded. Jurors awarded the damages to Damon Steele, whose son Denver John "D.J." Steele, then two, was injured while riding in an Evenflo car seat during the one-vehicle crash in 1996. With yesterday's ruling, "we feel that justice was done," said Evan Douthit, an attorney for the Steeles. With accrued interest, Douthit said, the jury award has grown to more than \$12.3 million. An Evenflo attorney, John Murphy, said further appeals were planned to the full appellate court, then to the Missouri Supreme Court, if necessary. Ohio-based Evenflo argued that the car's driver, Damon Steele's ex-girlfriend, failed to put D.J. in the seat properly, and that even if she had, the child would have been injured by the crash's severity.

## Railway Accidents



### MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated Aug 19, states: A 98-car CSX freight train derailed in north Mobile County, and about 14 cars wound up in a bayou while eight more piled up on land, officials said. Three locomotives had been pulling the coal-laden train from Montgomery to Mobile when it derailed late this afternoon. No one was injured in the accident. CSX spokesman Gary Sease said he did not have any information about the cause of the derailment. It will take several days before the cause can be determined, he said. Cars toppled from the railroad embankment into a body of water identified on some county maps as Catfish Bayou, between the Bayou Sara and Bayou Canot bridges. The

remote location can be easily reached only by rail or boat. Cranes were moving in on rail and crews would be working through the night to clear the track, Sease said.

## Robberies & Thefts



### PAINTINGS, OSLO, NORWAY

London, Aug 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Armed robbers have stolen the iconic Edvard Munch painting, The Scream, from the Munch Museum in Norway. Two masked thieves pulled the work and another painting, Madonna, off the wall as stunned visitors watched. One robber threatened staff with a gun before the pair escaped in a waiting car, a museum officer said. Another version of the painting was stolen in 1994 and was recovered three months later. Three Norwegians were arrested in connection with that theft. Jorunn Christofferson, a press officer at the Munch Museum, said the museum was full of people when the robbers took the two paintings - frames and all - off the walls of the gallery. Kjell Pedersen of the Oslo police told the Norwegian daily Aftenposten that police had "mobilised all available resources on the ground and in the air". Nobody was hurt and no shots were fired, Ms Christofferson said. She said the museum had closed-circuit television that would have captured the event on video, but that the thieves "were wearing black hoods, like bank robbers". The Scream and The Madonna are among the two most valuable paintings in the museum collection, she said.

## Computer Systems



### POST OFFICE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated Aug 23, states: A national computer problem prevented people from withdrawing benefits and pensions today, it has emerged. The Post Office said its Card Account computer network crashed between midday and 1543, BST, hitting 200,000 customers. The new automated account system, which was introduced last year and pays out pensions and other benefits, is now working normally. The Post Office apologised to customers who were affected by the problem. Post Office spokesman Jonathan Kinsella said: "We apologise to our customers for the problem. We would encourage people to return to their post office this afternoon, where they will now be able to collect their benefits."

## Miscellaneous

**INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS, NORTH AND WEST AFRICA**

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated today, states: One of the worst locust infestation to hit West Africa in 15 years has reached northern Nigeria, where authorities are battling the swarms with insecticide sprayed from crop-dusting airplanes, officials said today. The swarms moving in from North Africa have begun to invade the northwestern Nigerian states of Sokoto and Zamfara, threatening the livelihoods of subsistence farmers, officials told The Associated Press. "We have started spraying insecticides to curb the menace. We leased an aircraft for this purpose," said Sokoto state spokesman Mustapha Shehu. "But I'm afraid unless we get help and cooperation from our neighbors in Kebbi, Zamfara and also Niger Republic it will be a difficult task." In Zamfara, entire crops have been ruined and officials are trying to protect other land from destruction, said the spokesman for that state, Ibrahim Birnin Magagi. The insects have already caused serious crop damage in Mauritania, Mali and Niger and Chad and are heading toward Sudan's warring Darfur region, where fighting has driven one million people from their homes, according to U.N. figures. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization has said the insects were settling at a rate of 200,000 locusts per acre.

**POWER OUTAGE, BAHRAIN**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Electricity went out across Bahrain today, leaving people without air conditioning on a day when temperatures were expected to reach 130, snarling rush hour traffic and sending businesses and the U.S. Navy to their generators. The cause of the outage was not immediately clear. The power went out just before 0900 hrs in the capital, hub of the main population center. Police were deployed to major intersections to fill in for traffic lights, but cars still sat bumper-to-bumper throughout the city. Firefighters were dispatched to rescue people stuck in the elevators of high-rise buildings. Temperatures were fairly mild in the morning, but expected to soar by midday to around 130 when wind and humidity is factored in. Managers at banks, hotels and the phone and mobile phone companies said they switched to their generators, but many said that was not enough to sustain all their regular services. Bahrain's main oil refinery, which has its own power generator, was not affected.

## Fires &amp; Explosions

**FACTORY, MANSFIELD, NOTTINGHAM, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Up to 100 people have been moved out of their homes after a fire at a plastics factory in Mansfield. Other householders are being urged to keep doors and windows closed to avoid the effects of smoke coming from the Pyramid Plastics plant on Victoria Street. The fire also caused the postponement of tonight's Carling Cup game between Mansfield Town and Preston. Around 50 firefighters tackled the flames. Nobody was hurt but some people were treated for smoke inhalation. Nearby roads have been cordoned off by police as there are still concerns the building could collapse. Eight fire engines were sent to the scene, and eyewitnesses said the smoke could be seen from up to two miles away. No trains are being allowed to pass along the track through Mansfield because of the smoke. Buses are ferrying passengers between Kirkby-in-Ashfield and Mansfield Woodhouse.

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Up to 100 people were evacuated from their homes, and train services were disrupted, during a fire at a plastics factory in Mansfield, Notts. The fire at Pyramid Plastics also stopped the Carling Cup match between Mansfield Town and Preston. More than 60 firefighters tackled the fire, which began at around 1300, BST, yesterday and continued overnight. Nearby roads were cordoned off by police, as there were concerns the building could collapse. Nobody was seriously hurt, but a number of people were treated for breathing in smoke. Firefighters remained at the scene throughout the night, monitoring the shell of the building. No trains were being allowed to pass along the track through Mansfield because of the smoke. Eight fire engines were sent to the scene, and eyewitnesses said the smoke could be seen from up to two miles away. It is thought the fire started in some machinery. Station Officer Glenn Mears said crews are putting water in through the roof which has collapsed. Structural engineers will examine the building later today to determine whether the it needs to be pulled down. A Nottinghamshire fire service spokesman said earlier that there was no indication the fire was started deliberately. Trains on the Robin Hood Line are running to timetable, but Mansfield town station is still closed as a precaution. Passengers are advised to use Mansfield Woodhouse station instead.

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated Aug 25, states: Work has begun to knock down a plastics factory in Mansfield that was devastated by fire. The Pyramid Products building is being

demolished following a massive blaze which began yesterday after machinery caught fire. The damping down and demolition work in the Nottinghamshire town has continued to cause problem with trains at Mansfield station.

**FORESTS, GREECE**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire was raging in a pinewood forest east of Athens without threatening any Olympic venues, the fire service said today. The fire was burning near the archaeological site of Vravrona, 40 kilometres east of Athens. But the Games' shooting and equestrian centre at Markopoulo, 10km away, were in no danger, a spokesperson said. Some 120 firemen with 30 vehicles and five aircrafts were battling the flames, which were still not under control two hours after the eruption early this afternoon. The spokesperson for the Greek fire service said the blaze was "large" but did not clarify the extent of the area it covered. High winds were hampering firefighters' efforts, the spokesperson added.

**FORESTS, INDONESIA**

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Fires from forests and farmland have spread across East Kalimantan, causing haze in cities and towns around the province. Local officials said yesterday that farmers had lit the fires, some of which had been detected in conservation areas. "The forest fires were set by residents to clear land. Most burned areas are close to roads, so smoke can clearly be seen," said Kusnadi, an official with the forest fire control task force at the East Kalimantan forestry office. He said that 102 hot spots had been recorded on Aug 18, 2004, a sharp increase from only three hot spots recorded a day earlier by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) via satellite. Thirty-nine hot spots were detected in Kutai Kertanegara regency, 25 in Berau regency, 20 in East Kutai regency, eight in Bulungan, four in Pasir and two in Nunukan and Malinau, while one hot spot was detected in both Samarinda and West Kutai. Kusnadi said his office had reported the matter to the East Kalimantan governor so he could take measures to avoid conditions worsening. "East Kalimantan could be placed on alert," he said. Kusnadi said his office had also notified all municipal and regency administrations to take anticipatory measures amid fears that fires could spread further. Haze from forest fires could be seen in Samarinda on Tuesday (Aug 17) morning. However, it did not disrupt flights to or from the city. Residents have not been advised to wear masks. Areas affected by fire include land within the Bukit Soeharto conservation forest, which is adjacent to the Balikpapan-Samarinda highway, and part of the Kutai National Park (TNK). Malaysian authorities have complained about haze originating from fires in Kalimantan, saying they had ordered one million face masks and

were taking measures to encourage rainfall in an effort to reduce the effects of the smoke. Air quality in Seri Aman district in Sarawak state has been rated "unhealthy" because of wildfires in Indonesia's Kalimantan province. The Star cited Sarawak deputy chief minister George Tan as saying. "The smoke carried by the wind from Kalimantan is turning in to our direction and is hitting us," Tan told the daily. "One million masks are now on standby and ready for distribution throughout the state." Tan said the hazy conditions had been aggravated by a lack of rain, adding that his government was preparing to launch cloud seeding operations, in which chemicals are fired into clouds to induce downpours. Environment officials said the overall air quality in Sarawak state on Borneo and in the rest of Malaysia was moderate although visibility in some areas was bad.

London, Aug 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Smokey haze from forest and brush fires blanketed parts of the Indonesian islands of Borneo and Sumatra today, disrupting flights in western Borneo island, officials said. At least five flights in Pontianak city in West Kalimantan province were delayed early today by smoke from fires lit to clear new plantation land, said Kosasi Munir, the city's airport operations chief. Morning visibility was only at 50 to 300 metres, Munir said. A meteorology official in Palangkaraya, the capital of neighbouring Central Kalimantan province, warned that forest and brush fires creating the haze could worsen as the rainy season is not expected before September. "Compared to the previous years, land clearing is slightly down but the dry spell will not end before September so things are going to get worse, although it won't be as bad as four years ago," said Ferdy Purwana of the city's meteorology station. Sumatra and Borneo islands - which border Singapore and Malaysia - are the areas usually hardest hit by the choking haze, an annual dry-season hazard in parts of Indonesia. Officials blame fires set by large forest and plantation concession-holders, as well as by small farmers, to clear land for cultivation.

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: East Kalimantan forestry office firefighters are on high alert as forest and cropland fires spread to coal deposits. As the situation becomes worse by the day, the provincial administration has increased fire watch patrols and field monitoring, and moved in more fire-fighting equipment to fire-prone locations. Starting this week, our teams have been observing the situation around the clock and carrying out fire fighting activities at every hotspot," said the head of the Forest Fire Management Unit at the East Kalimantan Forestry Office, Kusnadi Katam. Weather conditions in East Kalimantan are hot and windy right now. If this kind of weather persists, the forest fires could intensify into as big a disaster as in 2001," he said. He added that the danger of the fires spreading rapidly

was exacerbated when the fires met with coal deposits, as had occurred recently in the Bukit Soeharto Community Forest located along the main highway between Balikpapan and Samarinda, as well as in Malinau regency. Forest fires have also broken out in conservation areas in the Kutai National Park in East Kutai and the Talisayan protected forest in Berau regency. The area destroyed by fire thus far this season is estimated at 32 hectares. Kusnadi said that there had been no reports of fires being deliberately set in forest concessions. Rather, they were caused by people engaging in land clearance. The fires had spread rapidly in areas with coal deposits. Based on 12 satellite photographs taken by the National Oceanic Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) on Aug 23, 11 hotspots were detected in four regencies in East Kalimantan; one in Berau, four in Kutai Kertanegara, five in East Kutai and one in Pasir. The highest number of hotspots in August was recorded on Aug 19, with 103 hotspots. Twelve hotspots were detected on Aug 21 and 62 hotspots on Aug 22. The satellite also located a number of hotspots in Kalimantan. On Aug 21, 115 hotspots were found in West Kalimantan province, 35 in South Kalimantan province and 141 in Central Kalimantan province. Meanwhile on Aug 22, 35 hotspots were detected in Central Kalimantan and 15 in South Kalimantan. None were detected in West Kalimantan. According to Kusnadi, the big variation in the number of hotspots detected from day to day was due to a lack of maximum satellite coverage. So far, the haze from the forest fires has covered Samarinda, Balikpapan, Kutai Kertanegara and East Kutai, but the East Kalimantan provincial administration has yet to pronounce the situation hazardous, and has not warned the public to use masks. The haze has also not affected flights to and from Temindung Airport in Samarinda. An official from the local air traffic control, Ucok, said that pilots had been informed about the haze covering the province, but that flights had not been affected thus far.

#### **FORESTS, MOROCCO**

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: France, Spain and Italy are to send water-bomber aircrafts to Morocco to fight a major forest fire raging in the north of the country. Morocco's government appealed for help from its Mediterranean neighbours after more than 2,000 hectares of forest had been devoured by flames. Mediterranean forest fires are common during the hot summer months, but in Morocco they are rare. This is largely because it has fewer and smaller forests. So far no-one has died in the blaze in the region of Sidi Kacem, around 130km from the capital, Rabat. But as the fire continues to spread there is concern it could reach more populated areas near the capital. The Moroccan Royal Gendarmerie has been struggling to contain the fire since early yesterday evening, when the King,

Mohammed VI, appealed for international assistance. This morning Canadair planes, more commonly known as water bombers, will arrive from France, Italy and Spain.

#### **HELIUM PLANT, OREBURG, RUSSIA**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Six fires were put out at a helium factory located 35 km from Yekaterinburg today. Firefighters are in efforts to extinguish the fire at four other sites, a senior official of the Volgra-Urals regional emergencies centre, Nikolai Gerasimov, said. Helium conduits are being cooled, and the electricity supply at the factory has been cut off. The fire erupted on Saturday (Aug 21), sweeping across a 1,400 square metre area. Gerasimov said the fire was caused by a propane explosion that sent a mechanical impact on one of conduits. One of firefighters died in the flames. Five people have been hospitalised with burns, contusion and poisoning with fire fumes. Three crews are fighting the fire. Causes of it are being ascertained.

#### **NATURAL GAS STORAGE FACILITY, MOSS BLUFF, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

Houston, Aug 20 — A fresh explosion rocked a day-old fire at a natural gas storage facility near Houston, sending a giant fireball high into the sky and prompting the evacuation of local residents, the facility operator said today. Residents told local television they felt the blast as far as eight miles away. The fire, which has burned through the night, grew in size following the blast. It sent flames shooting about 1,000 feet into the sky. Duke Energy Gas Transmission, a unit of U.S. power producer Duke Energy Corp., said an above-ground valve structure gave way at its 16-billion-cubic-foot Moss Bluff storage facility, causing an increased release of gas. A Liberty County Sheriff's Department dispatcher said a mandatory evacuation had been implemented for about 75 residents who live within a three-mile radius around the burning pipeline leading from the natural gas storage site. Firefighters have been battling a blaze at the facility, built in salt caverns, since an explosion early yesterday morning. All personnel on the site have been accounted for, and no injuries were reported, Duke said. The facility has been isolated from five nearby pipelines, which continue to operate. But service to Moss Bluff storage customers has been suspended, Duke said. — Reuters.

#### **OPERA HOUSE, BONN, GERMANY**

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated Aug 23, states: A fire apparently set off by welders doing roof repairs seriously damaged Bonn's opera house today, just two weeks before the scheduled start of its fall season with music by Ludwig van Beethoven. The blaze left scorched holes in the boxy building's aluminum-sided exterior, and authorities said smoke and water caused damage on and around the

stage. No injuries were reported. The city's top culture official, Ludwig Krapf, voiced concern that equipment under the stage also might have been damaged. The seating area apparently was unscathed. With damage being assessed, there was no immediate decision on whether officials would have to delay the Beethoven festival set to begin Sep 8 with a concert at the opera house. Smoke billowed skyward as about 160 firefighters responded, breaking open the aluminum side and roof to get at the blaze in the building constructed on the banks of the Rhine River in 1965. Only a few workers were inside because the building was closed for summer break. A fire department spokesman, Albert Lehmann, said the fire was believed to have been started by sparks from welding on the roof.

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated Aug 23, states: The roof of the Bonn opera house caught fire early today, spreading to the stage and the wings and causing considerable damage but no casualties, firefighters said after bringing the blaze under control. Few people were inside the opera house, which is observing a summer recess, when the fire broke out. Repairs are expected to last until mid-September, scotching a planned recital of the baritone Thomas Hampson on Sep 8.

#### **PREMISES, CINCINNATI, OHIO, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: More than 150 firefighters battled for over five hours before finally getting the upper hand on a stubborn and spectacular fire that gutted the Queen City Barrel Co. in Lower Price Hill and prompted officials to warn thousands of residents to stay inside their homes. The five-alarm fire reduced two thirds of the 400,000 square foot Queen City Barrel complex to smoking rubble, with the walls remaining only on the east end of the four-block long structure. The fire was still smoldering this morning, and Cincinnati Fire Chief Robert Wright said it might not be put down for good until tomorrow. Firefighters, who reported no serious injuries, finally got the blaze under control around midnight, about the time thundershowers soaked the area. All three floors of Queen City Barrel were "crammed with barrels from ceiling to floor," Wright said. That fueled the flames, which were shooting through the windows and roof by the time the first fire units arrived about 1900 hrs.

#### **PREMISES, COUNTY LONDONDERRY, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An extensive blaze at a furniture store in County Londonderry has been put out by firefighters. The fire began yesterday in the building at Upperlands in Maghera. At one point, 30 firefighters were involved in attempting to put out the blaze. The main blaze was brought under control after a few hours, but fire crews had to stay at the scene for

almost 12 hours to dampen it down. No one was hurt. A total of five sheds were damaged. The cause of the fire is being investigated.

#### **PREMISES, FLINT, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 21 — A press report, dated Aug 20, states: Damage is estimated at up to \$6 million in a blaze that destroyed a popular Flint supermarket and strip mall. Smoke from the fire at Mr. B's Foodland could be seen several miles away. The fire investigation is still in its early stages. Little has been determined regarding the cause. It started just before 1900, Thursday (Aug 19) at Mr. B's supermarket. That's when employees noticed smoke and customers were evacuated. When firefighters arrived, the building was engulfed in flames. More than 70 firefighters from across Genesee County spent hours last night fighting this massive fire on Dupont and Stewart Streets. The fire spread quickly to an adjacent dollar store and local social security office. Despite their best efforts, firefighters could not save the building but were able to save about a dozen computers in the Social Security office.

#### **REFINERY, HALIFAX, CANADA**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A fuel mix-up caused a fire at the Imperial Oil Refinery in Dartmouth yesterday, sending plumes of black smoke over Halifax harbour. The fire broke out around 2300 hrs in the fuel gas system, said Brian Fairley, manager of the refinery. Liquid fuel leaked into two furnaces that were not designed to burn liquids, said Fairley. The fire lasted about half an hour. The mix caused a flame that was bigger than usual and the flare stack spat thick, black smoke out into the sky. "Everything is contained and we are stabilizing all the units," said Fairley, just hours after the incident. "The systems all shut down as they were supposed to." About 200 people work at the refinery, but Fairley said no one was injured in Sunday's fire. "We're still doing an investigation to find out why the liquid got into the gas system," he said. Fairley confirmed that no product, gas or liquid, left any contained area of the refinery, which sits on 260 hectares of land on the Dartmouth side of the harbour.

#### **REFINERY, REGINA, CANADA**

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A lightning strike caused a freak fire at a Regina oil refinery yesterday afternoon, igniting a large container of gas and sending flames shooting 10 feet into the air. "There is a possibility the thing could have gotten bigger, but fortunately it did not," said Bud Van Iderstine, senior vice president of refining at Consumers' Co-operative Refineries Limited, speaking to reporters after the fire was extinguished late yesterday afternoon. The gas tank, which is about 40 metres wide and 15 metres high and was about 80 per cent full of gas, was struck by lightning at about 1430 hrs. Van

Iderstine says the fire was noticed immediately, and emergency crews from the refinery responded to the scene within minutes. The fire was brought under control immediately with firefighting foam, but the flame and smoke were stubborn and hard to extinguish completely. Firefighters battled the small, smoldering blaze for about an hour and a half.

#### **SHOPPING CENTRE, ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Police and security guards have been on duty overnight at the Mitcham shopping centre near Adelaide, protecting damaged teller machines and a bank, after yesterday's huge fire. Shop owners are still counting the cost of the blaze, which caused up to \$15 million damage. At least half of the 50 shops were gutted by the fire, which ripped through the building yesterday morning. Mayor of Mitcham Ivan Brooks says the community is rallying round the shop owners who watched their livelihoods go up in flames. The Mitcham Fire Service will continue its investigations today but says it is unlikely the fire was deliberately lit.

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The most intense and damaging fire in Adelaide for five years took less than an hour to rip through Mitcham Shopping Centre early yesterday, causing \$20 million damage and devastating at least 20 businesses. So fierce was the blaze, the Metropolitan Fire Service went to its highest response level - a rare fourth alarm. Extra MFS firefighters were rushed to the scene in taxis leaving Country Fire Service volunteers to man metropolitan stations. Smoke blanketed southern parts of the city as the fire took hold of the Belair Rd complex about 0440 hrs. "It was too dangerous for firefighters to mount an internal attack and they were forced to use three aerial appliances," MFS spokesman Richard Gray said. "It's the biggest I've seen in a long time." Police cordoned off surrounding streets amid concerns for public safety as external walls of the shopping centre threatened to collapse. Glass from shop fronts and an atrium shattered, covering the ground. "It's definitely a danger area with extreme damage," SAPOL State Duty Officer Inspector Kent McFarlane said. "The impact will be quite intense - it's all but completely destroyed," he said of the centre which was refurbished only 18 months ago. At least 20 shops were gutted and 10 more received smoke and water damage before the blaze was brought under control about 0550 hrs. Secure fire doors in the complex prevented damage to other shops but most of the complex's northern side was destroyed. Heat and smoke forced fire cause investigators to wait several hours before they were able to enter the centre to being inquiries. Early investigations have not been able to determine how the fire began, although it is not believed to be suspicious. Initial investigations suggest the fire began in the complex's top section on



the eastern side in a cluster of shops, including an Amcal chemist, Australia Post office and a dry cleaners."It moved into the ceiling, spreading between the ceiling and the roof, and was so intense one of the outside walls has buckled," Mr Gray said. Meanwhile, shop owners and staff from most of the 60 businesses tried to comprehend the magnitude of the damage. Shopping centre management said the complex would be closed for most of today as investigations continued. Early estimates place the structural damage to the building at \$15 million. However, the final bill is expected to top \$20 million as shop owners tally stock losses, interior damage and profit loss over the next few days.

#### **TYRE PLANT, AMAGI, FUKUOKA PREFECTURE, JAPAN**

London, Aug 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out yesterday at a Bridgestone Corp. tyre plant in Amagi, Fukuoka Prefecture, injuring 13 people, firefighters said. Twelve suffered from fume inhalation and one suffered burns, officials said. Their conditions were not considered life-threatening, but five of them were hospitalized. A production line at the plant, which mainly makes tyres for buses and trucks, caught fire around 1420 and was extinguished by 1700, after around 800 square metres of the facility were gutted, according to local fire officials. Bridgestone officials said that they suspended all operations at the plant after the fire.

#### **WAREHOUSE, POOLE, DORSET, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge fire at a warehouse which needed more than 100 firefighters to bring under control may have been started deliberately, according to police. The fire broke out at about 2030 BST, on Wednesday night (Aug 18) at the Motor World building on the Nuffield Industrial Estate, in Poole, Dorset. At one stage, firefighters thought there were gas cylinders inside the property which could explode. A man in his 40s was questioned and later released over the fire. No-one was injured but 80% of the building was damaged in the fire. Fire crews brought the fire under control at about 2300 BST but they had to return at 0445 BST yesterday because the fire had reignited.

#### **WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated Aug 22, states: Back-burning efforts have contained a large wildfire that threatened southern parts of Litchfield National Park, south of Darwin. It is not known how the fire started, but rangers believe it has been burning for at least 10 days. Parks and Wildlife ranger Alan Withers says the fire is still burning, and some roads within the park are closed. "Until the fire runs its course and for visitor safety, we've kept closed the Lost City track and the Reynolds River four-wheel drive track from Litchfield Park Road through to Surprise Creek Falls for the next couple of days," he said.

#### **WILDFIRES, PORTUGAL**

London, Aug 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Firefighters aided by airplanes and helicopters today brought a wildfire which burned along three fronts in southern Portugal under control, emergency services said. "The fire is very disperse and that complicated the work of firefighters but the various fronts are almost all contained," the director of the firefighter service in the southern district of Beja, Francisco Canudo Sena, told national news agency Lusa. A total of 30 fire engines, two water-dropping planes, and planes and four helicopters worked with 94 firefighters to put out the blaze, which destroyed scrub and brush land as well as eucalyptus and cork trees. It was not yet clear what caused the fire, which broke out early this afternoon.

#### **WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Rain and cooler temperatures helped firefighters rein in a 16,400-acre wildfire in central Washington yesterday, allowing evacuation orders to be lifted for residents of more than 300 homes. By midday, crews had the blaze entirely surrounded. The fire, burning northwest of Wenatchee, was 85 percent contained, Forest Service spokesman Allen Gibbs said. Firefighters worked to establish a 36-mile perimeter around the flames. Their efforts were aided by showers that dropped between one-tenth and one-half of an inch of rain. More rain was expected during the next few days. Crews were also helped by daytime temperatures that dropped into the 60s after weeks in the 90s. On Saturday night (Aug 21), 304 homes remained under mandatory evacuation orders, and residents of an additional 167 homes had been advised to leave. But by noon yesterday, everyone was cleared to return home, Gibbs said. The two-week-old fire destroyed one home and damaged several other buildings. It was believed to have been human-caused, but investigators ruled out arson. Wet, cooler weather kept most of the state's other wildfires from growing, including three fires near Lake Chelan that have blackened 47,470 acres. Those fires were 85 percent contained after a \$23 million firefighting effort.

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A wind-whipped wildfire sparked by a target shooter erupted near Reno and quickly spread to at least 2,600 acres, destroying at least four homes, threatening hundreds of others and forcing evacuations. At least 16 structures, including the homes, burned yesterday in the Pleasant Valley area, about seven miles from Reno, according to fire officials. Because of dense smoke, it was not immediately known exactly how many of the structures were homes or outbuildings. At least 350 homes were threatened by the fire, which was being whipped by winds gusting to 35 mph. Firefighting crews on the ground were being assisted by helicopters and air tankers, officials said. Residents were urged to evacuate. Crews cut electricity

to the area to help decrease the possibility of power lines snapping and sparking more fires.



#### **AIRCRAFT DIVERTED TO PIERRE-ELLIOTT TRUDEAU AIRPORT, MONTREAL, CANADA**

London, Aug 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A London-bound British Airways aircraft carrying 302 passengers from Phoenix, Arizona was diverted to Montreal today for technical reasons, a spokesperson for the airline told AFP. "The plane was diverted into Montreal" early in the morning, he said, adding that the Boeing 747, flight BA 288, "landed safely" at Pierre-Elliott Trudeau airport. "Engineers are checking the aircraft at the moment and the plane will hopefully take off again later today" for London Heathrow Airport, the spokesperson added. "We are putting up all passengers in hotels for the time being."

#### **AIRCRAFT EVACUATED, SYDNEY AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA**

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A security investigation at Sydney Airport has caused some disruptions to domestic terminal operations. A white powder has been discovered on a Virgin Blue flight from Melbourne to Sydney. Hazardous materials officers from the New South Wales Fire Brigade have been called to investigate. The aircraft has been isolated on the tarmac for more than two hours.

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Passengers and crew on a flight arriving at Sydney Airport tonight were evacuated after a potentially hazardous substance was found on the aircraft. A spokesman for Airservices Australia said 151 people, including six crew members, were evacuated from the aircraft, which had flown in from Melbourne around 1830, AEST. "An unknown substance was found on board the aircraft," he said. "NSW Fire Brigade Hazmat teams are in attendance and investigating the substance, as are specialists from NSW Police as a precaution. It's being treated as a hazardous material alert." The spokesman confirmed that the Boeing 737 was a Virgin Blue flight. Airservices Australia initially investigated the incident before calling police and the fire brigades. The spokesman could not say where the substance was located in the aircraft. The passengers and crew were evacuated as a precaution and nobody required medical treatment, he said.

#### **AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A Singapore Airlines passenger aircraft has been

forced to land shortly after taking off from Melbourne Airport early this morning. A spokeswoman for the airline, Samantha Stewart, says the Boeing 777, heading to Bangkok, was carrying around 300 people and took off just before 0100, AEST. She says the captain noticed engine trouble about 25 minutes into the flight. "Shortly after take-off, the captain discovered that there were some vibrations coming from the left-hand engine, which included some sparks as a result of that engine overheating," she said. Thirty-five officers were called to the scene but the aircraft landed safely and no one was injured. Hollie Edwards was on board and saw the engine catch fire. "It just started with loud bangs and it looked like there was an electrical fault because the whole cabin was lighting up, just huge shoots of flame coming out of the engine and originally it stopped so I assume that the captain turned the engine off," she said. Singapore Airlines says the passengers spent the night in Melbourne and will be rescheduled onto new flights today.

London, Aug 26 — A press report, dated Aug 25, states: Several hundred passengers on an aborted Singapore Airlines flight finally left Melbourne following an engine mishap that forced an emergency landing overnight. Flight SQ218 left Melbourne Airport for a second time at noon, AEST, and was due to land in Singapore about 1930. The flight had to be rescheduled after the pilot of the Boeing 777-300 passenger jet with 278 passengers and 21 crew made an emergency landing at 0148, AEST, today after a fire in the left engine. An Air Transport Safety Bureau investigation is underway into the incident, which Singapore Airlines has blamed on an engine surge soon after the aircraft took off at 1250. Captain BC Tan dumped its fuel load over Port Phillip Bay and made a single engine landing as 11 fire appliances waited on the ground at Melbourne Airport. Singapore Airlines spokesman Samantha Stewart said that although the aircraft could have flown on one engine, airline procedures required the pilot to land at the first opportunity. "On take-off the aircraft experienced a surge in the left-hand engine," Ms Stewart said. "The pilot ensured safe clearance of the aircraft and undertook a fuel dump to bring the aircraft's weight down prior to landing. "At this time it appears that the surge caused the left-hand engine to overheat, resulting in sparks in the engine which were visible to passengers on board." The aircraft, powered by twin Rolls Royce Trent engines, would not return to service until the engine was replaced or repaired, Ms Stewart said. The engine trouble was first reported by passengers who saw sparks and flames coming from the engine. The engine explosion shook houses and woke people living near the airport in Melbourne's outer northern suburbs. Singapore Airlines flew a replacement aircraft, a Boeing 747-400, from Singapore for the rescheduled departure.

#### **C-GCBS**

London, Aug 25 — Cessna 320F, C-GCBS, owned by Ontario Inc, landed wheels-up on runway 25 at Windsor after a flight from Welland at 1456, Aug 22. It was reported that the landing gear handle was down but the gear doors had only moved to the 'cracked-open' position and the pilot did not notice that the gear had not locked down. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The pilot and three passengers were unhurt.

#### **CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS, HEATHROW AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: BA passengers face a second day of delays after staff shortages and technical problems forced the airline to cancel at least 20 flights. Ten short-haul flights were cancelled yesterday when BA failed to open check-in desks due to a lack of staff - with about ten flights cancelled today. BA, which has just averted one strike, said it is currently recruiting 60 more check-in staff. Three US-bound flights were also cancelled after technical faults. Flights from Heathrow to Berlin, Munich, Helsinki, Glasgow and Aberdeen were cancelled, as were arrivals at Heathrow from those five cities. British Airways said it was making arrangements to put the short-haul passengers on alternative flights. Some were accommodated on later flights, some were provided with overnight hotel accommodation and seats on flights today while others simply had to rebook. "We apologise sincerely to those customers affected by the disruption to flights at Heathrow Airport yesterday," a BA spokeswoman said. "Due to a number of operational reasons we have cancelled 25 flights and some services have been delayed. "August is the busiest period of the year for British Airways and services at Heathrow are stretched. "We have also had some technical problems with our aircraft and these combined has resulted in the cancellations," she added. However, it was having more trouble arranging alternatives for the long-haul passengers whose flights were cancelled. The three trans-Atlantic flights cancelled were to Chicago, New York and Philadelphia. Passengers flying into the airport last night also had long waits on the tarmac, before being allowed to disembark.

#### **CRASH INTO SEA OFF VENICE, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Petroleum Helicopters Incorporated helicopter went down in waters about 20 miles southeast of Venice off Louisiana's southeastern coast this morning. The Coast Guard says all nine people aboard were rescued and no serious injuries were reported. A vessel in the area transferred the passengers to an oil rig. A P-H-I helicopter took the group from the rig to Port Sulphur

Hospital for evaluation. The Coast Guard says the National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the accident.

#### **CRASH, BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated today, states: An executive jet which crashed two years ago in Birmingham killing five people had not been de-iced, according to a report. The nine-seater Canadair Challenger jet was scheduled to fly back to the United States in January 2002. It crashed during take-off at Birmingham International Airport in sub-zero temperatures. An official report into the crash said the pilot should have called for the plane to be de-iced. All five killed in the crash were US citizens. A report by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch said the plane had been kept on the airport apron the night before the crash where temperatures dipped to minus nine celsius. The frost on the left wing led to the plane going into a rapid roll immediately after take off, the report said.

#### **CRASH, GOMA AREA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

London, Aug 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A private 12-seater aircraft crashed earlier in the week in the south-west of Goma in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), killing three people, UN officials said today. The aircraft which was flying between Goma and Walikale, 200km west of Goma, crashed into a mountain on Wednesday (Aug 18). "The pilot and the two passengers including one woman were killed," a UN source told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The weather was bad, there was a lot of cloud," an aviator from Goma said, who also wished to remain anonymous. The mountain is about 3 400 metres high and the pilot was flying at about 2 600 metres, the source added. The pilot of the ill-fated aircraft was Kenyan and the two passengers were Congolese, the source said. The aircraft had been due to load up with a mineral extracted in the region.

#### **CRASH, KAIMANAWA RANGES AREA, NEW ZEALAND**

London, Aug 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Two men and two dogs were rescued from the southern Kaimanawa Ranges today after a light aircraft crashed on take-off. The aircraft, a Piper Cub single engine, was found upturned on Boyd Airstrip about 40km south-east of Taupo at 1051. The men and the dogs were uninjured. The Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) was alerted to the incident at 0845 by aircraft reporting a beacon signal between Napier and Palmerston North. The centre arranged for a Palmerston North-based Helipro helicopter to search the area. Helipro pilot Regan Graham said they detected the beacon and the tracking gear

directed them to the crash site. "They (the two men and their dogs) were sitting next to the aircraft at the end of the strip waiting for someone to come and find them," Mr Graham said the two men, aged in their thirties, and their dogs had flown into Boyd Airstrip from Hastings yesterday to hunt. Mr Graham said the pilot was taking off by himself to check out the weather to make sure they could get back to Hastings when the accident happened. "He was half way down the strip and he had some sort of engine problem," Mr Graham said. "Right at the end of the strip was a big puddle and he tried to stop the aircraft, and basically it hit the puddle. "The wheels sort of dug in and it was a tail-dragger and just flipped over on its back "He (the pilot) said it all happened in slow motion, it hit the water and then slowly went over and when the nose dug in it flipped on its back and stopped." Mr Graham flew the men and their dogs back to Hastings. The aircraft was severely damaged.

#### **CRASH, LITTLE BELT MOUNTAINS, MONTANA, UNITED STATES**

See N199GL.

#### **CRASH, SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA**

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Two men are lucky to be alive after their plane crashed and burst into flames trying to land at a New Brunswick airport. The pair were aboard a twin-engine piper aircraft as it approached Saint John airport around 2300 hrs, yesterday. The plane was trying to make an instrument landing in dense fog. Police Sergeant Pat Bonner says the men managed to get out of the plane and walk to a house to call for help. The pilot and co-pilot were taken to hospital with burns. Their injuries were not thought to be life-threatening. Investigators from the Transportation Safety Board will be on site this morning to try to find the exact cause of the crash.

#### **CRASH, SHREVEPORT AREA, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated Aug 24, states: Three men were able to walk away from an aircraft crash this afternoon after it went down in woods in far south Shreveport. The pilot of the single-engine Beechcraft was doing touch-and-goes at Lucien Airport when the engine stalled. He could not restart the engine and had to crash-land it, Shreveport Fire Department spokesman Brian Crawford said. The aircraft, which had been about 200 feet in the air, crashed into some woods. It was destroyed but the pilot and two passengers walked away from the wreckage and were in a clearing when emergency crews and police arrived, Crawford said. The most serious injury appeared to be a separated shoulder, Crawford said.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: An American

Airlines jet made an emergency landing in Shreveport, Louisiana this evening after a gauge indicated high oil pressure. Officials say the pilot shut down one of the M-D-80's two engines and landed safely. An American Airlines spokeswoman says 116 people were onboard the aircraft, including five crew members. The plane was headed for Dallas-Fort Worth from Tampa, Florida. Arrangements are being made to bring another aircraft to Shreveport and fly passengers to the Dallas-Fort Worth airport.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, SOFIA AIRPORT, BULGARIA**

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A Bulgarian commercial aircraft with 150 passengers aboard made an emergency landing at Sofia airport today causing no injuries, officials said. One of the Russian-made Tupolev 154 wheels would not tuck in and the crew asked for permission to land the aircraft at 0622 hrs briefly after it took off for Liege, Belgium, the airport press office said. The aircraft landed safely at 0750 hrs after discharging all its fuel hovering above Sofia. Fire brigades and medical teams at the airport were alerted in anticipation of a possible accident.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, WALCHA, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An aircraft has been forced to make an emergency landing in New South Wales's north after one of its engines failed. Ten people were aboard the aircraft, which was heading to Tamworth. Police say the pilot declared an emergency, before diverting to land at Walcha. The aircraft landed safely. Inquiries are continuing into the incident.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, YUZHNO-SAKHALINSK AIRPORT, RUSSIA**

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: An Ilyushin-96 aircraft from Moscow has made an emergency landing in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk airport. When the aircraft was in the air over Yakutia, one of its four engines malfunctioned. The crew decided to continue the flight and land at Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. On board the aircraft were 254 passengers and 18 crew members. The aircraft with three engines landed safely, airport administration sources told Itar-Tass.

#### **INCIDENT AT BANGALORE AIRPORT, INDIA**

London, Aug 22 — A press report, dated Aug 21, states: Air traffic from Bangalore airport was affected for nearly three hours in the early hours today as a Malaysian Airway flight got stuck at the runway. The aircraft, which was taxiing for take-off to Kuala Lumpur, was stuck at the runaway after its rear wheels bogged down in the soft ground at the tip of the runway, Airport Authority of India sources here said. All the 200 passengers on board the aircraft were safe, the sources said.

The aircraft was later towed away and the runway cleared for traffic, they said.

#### **INCIDENT AT COLOGNE/BONN AIRPORT, GERMANY**

London, Aug 21 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Twenty-three persons were slightly injured and many suffered shock today when smoke inside a Spanish holiday aircraft triggered an emergency evacuation at Cologne/Bonn airport, officials said. The MD83 operated by Spanair airline had 174 people - 168 passengers and six crew members - on board when the incident occurred, just as the aircraft was heading for the runway to take off for Palma de Mallorca. Officials said oil from the hydraulic system had leaked onto the aircraft's electricity generator, creating smoke inside the aircraft cabin. The pilot immediately ordered an emergency evacuation. Passengers escaped by sliding down the chutes from the aircraft's exits, causing some of the minor injuries, rescue officials reported. Other injuries were from smoke inhalation. Those who still wanted to fly were to board a replacement aircraft for a later flight to Mallorca, airport spokeswoman Anja Stenzel van Melis said. The incident began at 1010, local time and the state of alarm at the airport was called off at 1200, local time. Other air traffic operations were largely unaffected by the accident.

#### **INCIDENT AT TAIPEI, TAIWAN**

See "Typhoon 'Aere'" under "Weather & Navigation."

#### **INCIDENT ON FLIGHT FROM LISBON, PORTUGAL TO TERCEIRA, AZORES**

London, Aug 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A TAP-Air Portugal airliner dived sharply to avoid a mid-air collision with a smaller aircraft just before landing on the mid-Atlantic Azores islands overnight, slightly injuring 33 people. The Airbus A310, carrying 133 passengers and eight crew from Lisbon to the island of Terceira, plunged about 2000 metres after air traffic controllers warned the pilot of the risk of an imminent collision, TAP and airport officials said. "The fact that many passengers did not have their seatbelts on at that moment caused the injuries," the airline said. The aircraft landed safely at Lajes airport on Terceira island, 1500km west of mainland Portugal, and the 31 injured passengers and two crew were taken to hospital, TAP said. "In the sudden drop, those who had not yet fastened their seatbelts hit their heads on the ceiling or on the seats in front of them," Agriculture Minister Carlos da Costa Neves, who was on board the aircraft, told cable news channel SIC-Noticias. None of the injuries were serious. All but one of the hurt passengers, who suffered head injuries and scratches, has been released from hospital, the Lusa news agency reported, citing a hospital source. "It was a very quiet flight until suddenly the plane swerved to the right and began to lose height,"

another passenger told Portuguese television. The Ministry of Public Works and Transportation said it would open an inquiry into the incident, which authorities said was without precedent at the airport, located on a US military base. The air base handles both civilian and military traffic and is shared by Portugal and the United States. The smaller aircraft involved in the incident was in military airspace at the Lajes air base at the time of the near-collision, authorities said. It continued its journey to Lisbon without interruption.

#### **N11083**

London, Aug 23 — American Champion Citabria Aurora 7-ECA, N11083, crashed near Angle Inlet, Minnesota, at 0218, Aug 23. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N1238L**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated Aug 22, states: Two people are believed dead after the sea plane they were aboard crashed into the Thermalito Afterbay this morning. The crash took place just outside Oroville, north of Sacramento. Witnesses said the aircraft originally landed safely on the shallow body of water only to crash when it tried to take off again. Butte County authorities said the aircraft came to rest upside down in deep mud about 18 feet under water. The Thermalito Afterbay is a popular spot for boating and water skiing. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board are on the way to the scene to investigate.

London, Aug 23 — Lake LA-4-200 (Buccaneer), N1238L, crashed into water near Oroville, California, at 1845, Aug 21. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N17062**

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated Aug 19, states: A small airplane crashed north of Miles City, killing the pilot, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said today. FAA spokesman Allen Kenitzer said the two-seat Cessna 150 was registered to Christian J. Lund of Miles City. Garfield County Sheriff Kelly Pierson said Jerry Lund, 48, died in the yesterday evening crash. No one else was on board. Derrick Rodgers of the Miles City Fire Department said the plane crashed in a wheat field in Rosebud County, about 32 miles northwest of Miles City.

London, Aug 20 — Cessna 150L, N17062, crashed near Miles City, Montana, at 0200, Aug 19. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N199GL**

London, Aug 20 — Beechcraft 99 Airliner, N199GL, operated by Alpine Aviation Inc, crashed near Big Baldy Mountain, Great Falls, Montana, at 0540, Aug 18, while on a flight from Billings, MT, to Kalispell, MT. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N22347**

London, Aug 20 — Bell 412, N22347, crashed into the Gulf of Mexico, near

Boothville, Louisiana, at 1202, Aug 19, while on a flight from Boothville to the Viosca Knoll 989 platform. The nine persons on board evacuated safely into a liferaft.

#### **N2751U**

London, Aug 24 — Bell 206B JetRanger, N2751U, crashed near Lander, Wyoming, at 2056, Aug 23. The aircraft was destroyed. Two of the four persons on board were seriously injured and the other two suffered minor injuries.

#### **N2YN**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated Aug 22, states: A medical helicopter airlifting a baby to a Reno hospital crashed in a remote area of northern Nevada, killing all five people aboard, authorities said. The Access Air helicopter crashed either late yesterday or early today into the upper part of 9,775-foot Mt. Tobin, about 200 miles north-east of Reno, Humboldt County Undersheriff Brian Jonas said. Jonas said the 11-day-old infant, its mother, the pilot, a nurse and a paramedic were killed. Their names were not released. Authorities said they lost contact with the helicopter about 2330, yesterday. The Bell 407 helicopter was en route to Washoe Medical Centre after landing at Battle Mountain General Hospital to pick up the baby and its mother. The cause of the crash was under investigation. National Transportation Safety Board investigators were expected to arrive tomorrow. It was a little windy, but weather did not appear to be a factor in the crash, said Chuck Young, Access Air base manager in Elko. A search for the helicopter began after it was reported missing. The wreckage was spotted late this morning by another pilot.

London, Aug 23 — Bell 407, N2YN, crashed into Mount Tobin, Nevada, Aug 21 while on a flight from Battle Mountain, NV, to Reno, NV. The aircraft was destroyed. The five persons on board were killed.

#### **N53879**

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Two small aircraft collided yesterday while flying off the California coast, killing at least three people. The aircraft, each carrying a pilot and a single passenger, collided off El Matador State Beach. Authorities were unsure if there was a fourth fatality. "It is inconceivable to think there are survivors," said Donn Walker, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. One aircraft was a Thorp T-18 and the other a Citabria 7ECA, both single-engine propeller-driven aircraft. Rescue crews found the bodies of two people inside the Thorp and one body from the Citabria washed ashore. Walker said authorities were still searching for another body that may be missing, he said.

London, Aug 23 — Bellanca 7ECA (Citabria), N53879, and Thorp T-18 (Tiger), N7618T, were in collision near Malibu, California, at 0030, Aug 22. Both aircraft were destroyed. The two persons on board N53879 and the two persons on board N7618T were killed.

#### **N5410T**

London, Aug 23 — Cessna 172E, N5410T, crashed near Decorah, Iowa, at 1835, Aug 22, while on a flight from Decorah, to Isle, Minnesota. One of the three persons on board was killed and the other two were seriously injured.

#### **N57EF**

London, Aug 23 — Piper PA-31P (Pressurised Navajo), N57EF, crashed near Clarkson, New York, at 1734, Aug 20, while on a flight from Geneseo, Illinois, to Brockport, NY. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N7618T**

See N53879.

#### **N9573**

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated Aug 23, states: Shortly before noon today, KIMT NewsChannel Three learned about a helicopter crash in LeRoy, Minnesota. The Enstrom F-28-A helicopter was hired by Allient Energy to survey power lines in the area. The passenger walked, but the pilot was injured. The helicopter took off from about 400 yards away from where it crashed. Witnesses say the helicopter had trouble gaining altitude, touched down several times before it finally flipped over in the field. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the crash.

London, Aug 24 — Enstrom F-, N9573, crashed near Le Roy, Minnesota, at 1450, Aug 23. One of the two persons on board was seriously injured.

#### **RA-65080**

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A Tu-134 jet carrying 34 passengers and eight crew members crashed near the village of Buchalki in the Tula region south of Moscow. Interfax said that the aircraft took off at Moscow's Domodedovo airport and headed for Volgograd at 2232, Moscow time. Communication with the aircraft was lost at 2259, Moscow time. The rescuers have found the aircraft's tail and were searching for other pieces and flight recorders, as well as possible survivors, Interfax said, quoting an on-duty official of the regional administration. Witnesses saw an explosion on board the aircraft just before it crashed, according to Interfax.

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: One of the flight recorders from the Tu-134 aircraft, which crashed in the Tula region late yesterday, has been found at the crash site, sources from the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations reported.

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Itar-Tass quoted a Russia's aviation committee official as saying a Tu-154 airliner, with 44 people on board crashed near the city of Rostov-on-Don south of Moscow. Interfax quoted the Emergencies Ministry as saying contacts with the Tu-154 flying from Moscow to the Black Sea resort of Sochi were lost at 2259 Moscow time, when it was expected to be 140 kilometres from the city. The

Siberian Airlines confirmed to Interfax that the aircraft heading from Moscow's Domodedovo airport to Sochi disappeared from radar screens at about 2300 Moscow time. It sent out a signal indicating that it had been hijacked shortly before disappearing from radar screens. The aircraft apparently broke up in the air and wreckage was spread over an area of 50km, a regional official said. Russian air company Sibir has said it owned the aircraft. Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered the Federal Security Service to make prompt investigation, Interfax quoted Putin's press secretary Alexei Gromov as saying.

London, Aug 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Moscow's rescuers are ready to fly to the site where a Tu-154 passenger aircraft crashed in Russia's southern Rostov region yesterday. A spokesman at the Emergency Situations Ministry told Ira-Tass today that a helicopter carrying a rescuer team would fly to the site of the tragedy at midday. Wreckage of the Tu-154 was found early today in the Kamenetsk-Shakhtinsky district nine kilometres from the settlement of Gluboky.

Uzlovaya, Aug 26 — Russia observed a day of mourning today for at least 89 people who died in a mysterious double air disaster, which some fear could have been a terrorist attack ahead of a key election in rebel Chechnya. Investigators were deciphering flight recorders recovered from the wreckage of the crashed planes in an effort to unlock the secret of what brought them down. Flags flew at half-mast and comedy shows were pulled from television schedules as relatives of those killed in Tuesday's disasters went to the crash sites to identify their kin. One aircraft, a Tu-134 (RA-65080) flying to Volgograd, went down near the town of Tula. Moments later a Tu-154 bound for Sochi crashed near Rostov-on-Don. The planes, which crashed 500 miles apart, both left from Moscow's Domodedovo airport. Transport Minister Igor Levitin, heading the state commission charged with the investigation, said it was still too early to pin down the reasons for the twin disasters. "We have no clear idea today on what has happened. Not all the flight recorders are in a fit state to be read immediately. Experts will work on them today and tomorrow to make the tapes more acceptable for reading," he told NTV television. The four recorders were retrieved from two countryside sites where slabs of twisted metal, seats and clothing were shipped to Moscow late yesterday. — Reuters.

## Product Recalls



### FORD MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES/CANADA

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Up to 400,000

Canadians might be driving Ford vehicles with faulty door latches that could lead to serious injury or death, says a \$527-million class-action lawsuit filed yesterday against Ford Motor Co., Magna International and several of its subsidiaries. The legal claim launched in Ontario Superior Court says Ford and its subcontractors have known about faulty door latches on four Ford models since the suit claims during crashes the door or doors on the side of the vehicle that was not hit have been reported to spring open. The claim is seeking payment to replace latches on about four million light trucks and SUVs in the United States and 300,000 to 400,000 more in Canada at a cost of about \$1,300 for a four-door vehicle.

### GENERAL MOTORS VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 23 — A press report, dated today, states: General Motors Corp. is recalling 32,301 of its new Aveo cars because the rear seat belt can lock and become unusable, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Friday (Aug 20). All of the cars involved in the recall are from the 2004 model year. NHTSA said the seat belts in the rear seats can become twisted. If that happens, the seat belt retractor may lock into position and the seat belt can't be used. GM plans to start notifying owners about the recall next month. Under the recall, GM dealers will install a guide in the belt to keep it from twisting. The Aveo went on sale last year.

### HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, INDIA

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Honda Siel Cars India is recalling 2,000 units of its luxury sedan "Accord" sold post-July 2003 to replace certain faulty parts. "We have decided to change parts such as fuel pump, transmission and hood-stay, which may have a fault in the 2,000-odd cars sold. The move is in line with an international campaign, where faults have been detected in these parts. In India also, we have come across a few cases," assistant general manager Neeraj Garg said. Over 3,000 Accord cars have been sold till now.

### LAPTOP BATTERIES, UNITED STATES

Washington, Aug 19 — Apple Computer Inc. has agreed to recall about 28,000 batteries used in its 15-inch PowerBook G4 laptop computers, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said today. The batteries, made by LG Chem Ltd. of South Korea, could overheat and pose a fire hazard, the CPSC said. Apple has received four reports of overheating though no injuries have been reported, the consumer protection agency said. The recall affects laptops sold since January which contain batteries made during the last week of December 2003 only. The batteries have the model number A1045 and serial numbers that begin with HQ404, HQ405, HQ406, HQ407 or HQ408. — Reuters.

### MG ROVER MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Aug 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Autotrading Luft Japan Co, importer of motor vehicles from British automaker MG Rover Group Ltd, said yesterday it is recalling 1,409 units of the Rover 200Vi and the MGF1.8i VVC for free replacement of defective parts. Imported between October 1995 and April 1998, the vehicles could see their engines damaged due to defective screw bolts and washers to fix front camshaft gears, Autotrading said in a report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

### MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Local car producer Mitsubishi has recalled about 1000 locally built Magna and Verada models to fix a potential brake problem. The company said the all-wheel drive sedans involved were manufactured between October 2, 2002, and June 2, 2003. It said there was a possibility the right-hand rear wheel brake pipe might come into contact with a wiring harness bracket. "As a result, the brake pipe may eventually wear, leading to brake fluid leakage from one hydraulic circuit," Mitsubishi said. "If this occurs, brake pedal travel will increase and effectiveness of the brakes is reduced, resulting in increased stopping distances." The company said owners should take their vehicles to a Mitsubishi dealer for inspection and replacement of the brake pipe if necessary. Mitsubishi spokesman Kevin Taylor said there had been no reports of any incidents involving customer cars. He said the potential brake problem was detected by the company during routine durability testing.

### NISSAN MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Aug 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Nissan Motor Co said yesterday it will recall 33,000 Elgrand minivans to fix defective catalyst systems that curb the emission of carbon monoxide and other substances. Subject to the recall are Elgrands produced between April 2002 and March 2003, Nissan said. Problems in a computer program for engine control could lead to a rise in exhaust temperatures and cause catalyst-system deterioration, Nissan said.

## Port Conditions



### COSTA RICA

See "Labour Disputes."

### INDIA

See under "Labour Disputes."

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## Port Conditions

### ITALY

Genoa, Aug 24 — Port situation Aug 24: Savona: One vessel waiting for normal berth, average berthing delay one day. Genoa and La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

### PANAMA CANAL

London, Aug 17 — Information received, dated today, states: Due to the heavy arrivals and also weather conditions, the backlog is not clearing up as quick as anticipated. Delays are presently running as follows: Panamax Northbound: approximately three days. Panamax Southbound: approximately

two days. Regulars: little or no delay. It is hoped by week's end the Canal situation shall be back to normal. As at 0001, hrs, Aug 16th: Queue 65 vessels. At 0001 hrs, today: 53 vessels. The next stage of repairs are tentatively scheduled at Miraflores & Gatun locks from Sep 1 to 8 (seven days). Similar delays to those currently experienced are expected.

London, Aug 24 — Panama Canal lock lane outages: Gatun Locks: From 0001, Sep 1, through to 2359, Sep 7, the west lane will be out of service. The west lane will be closed in order to perform rehabilitation work on 703 feet of tow track on the southwest approach wall and 144 feet of tow track on the

southwest sidewall. Other miscellaneous maintenance work, such as inspection and cleaning of conductor slots, will be performed as well. Miraflores Locks: From 1800, Sep 1 through to 2359, Sep 4, the west lane will be out of service. The west lane will be closed in order to perform installation of redundant seals on Miter Gates 102 and 103. Inspection and cleaning of conductor slots and other miscellaneous maintenance work will be performed as well.

### SYRIA

Lattakia, Aug 7 — Waiting time presently 24 hours at Lattakia and five days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

## Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbot Point	25-Aug-2004	Coal: One vessel at berth, 1 at anchor; 7 vessels due by 11/9; up to 8 days delay expected.
Brisbane	25-Aug-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Five vessels due by 26/9; no delays expected. Grain: No vessels, no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	25-Aug-2004	Coal: Three vessels at berth, 16 at anchor; 53 vessels due by 5/10; vessels are berthing in order of cargo availability; 1-10 days delay expected.
Dampier	25-Aug-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: One vessel loading at berth, 3 at anchor; 6 vessels due by 4/9; 1-4 days delay expected; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading at berth, 3 at anchor; 9 vessels due by 1/9; 1-5 days delay expected.
Gladstone	25-Aug-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Three vessels at berth, 4 at anchor; 28 vessels due by 28/9; 1-7 days delay expected; Barney Point: 4 vessels due by 20/9; no delays expected. Grain: No vessels, no delays expected.
Hay Point	25-Aug-2004	Coal: Two vessels at berth, 12 at anchor; 10 vessels due by 3/9; up to 12 days delay expected. Berth closed for maintenance 30/8-1/9.
Newcastle	25-Aug-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Three vessels loading; 38 vessels due by 6/9; Dykes 4+5: 12 vessels due by 7/9; Kooragang and Dyke terminals: up to 16 days delay expected. Grain: Eight vessels due by 21/9; up to 5 days delay expected.
Port Adelaide	25-Aug-2004	Grain: Seven vessels due by 9/9; 1-4 days delay expected.
Port Hedland	25-Aug-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 6 vessels due by 2/9; 1-6 days delay expected; "B" berth: One vessel loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 6 vessels due by 30/8; 2-6 days delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): 2 vessels due by 24/8, up to 2 days delay expected; Westyard "D" berth: 2 vessels at anchor; 1 vessel due 26/8; up to 7 days delay expected.
Port Kembla	25-Aug-2004	Coal: One vessel at anchor; 10 vessels due by 19/9; CB1: 4 vessels due by 18/9; up to 1 day's delay expected. Grain: Four wheat vessels due by 12/9; up to 10 days delay expected.
Port Walcott	25-Aug-2004	Iron ore: Two vessels loading at berth, 5 at anchor; 16 vessels due by 9/9; up to 5 days delay expected; 2 ship loaders are being used on a more frequent basis, requiring 2 loading plans: one for single ship loader, 1 for dual loader operation; shippers request that load plans be submitted as early as possible (10 days) so they can coordinate stockpiles more effectively.
Portland	25-Aug-2004	Grain: One wheat vessel anchored; 5 vessels due by 28/9; up to 4 days delay expected.
<b>Brazil</b>		
Paranagua	24-Aug-2004	Eleven vessels loading at berth, 5 discharging at berth; 18 vessels waiting in roads of which 7 to load, 11 to discharge; 48 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	24-Aug-2004	Three vessels loading at berth, 5 discharging at berth; 4 vessels waiting in roads; 36 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	24-Aug-2004	Twenty vessels loading at berth, 4 discharging at berth, 6 loading/discharging at berth.
Sao Sebastiao	24-Aug-2004	Four vessels berthed; 1 vessel waiting in roads; 5 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	24-Aug-2004	Ubu: 1 vessel loading iron ore at berth; 13 vessels due over the next 7 days.
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Bougas	23-Aug-2004	Fourteen vessels in port of which 9 loading, 5 discharging; 2 empty vessels in roads to load; 14 vessels due of which 8 to load, 6 to discharge.
<b>Chile</b>		
Valparaiso	24-Aug-2004	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 4 vessels at anchorage: 10 vessels due this week.

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## Port Conditions

<b>Egypt</b>		
Alexandria	23-Aug-2004	Thirty-one vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 22 general cargo, 1 container, 8 bulkers; 4 vessels at inner anchorage, 12 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	23-Aug-2004	Thirteen vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 9 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 2 container vessels; 2 vessels at outer anchorage.
Suez Canal	23-Aug-2004	Twenty vessels transiting Northbound, 27 Southbound.
<b>Israel</b>		
Ashdod	24-Aug-2004	No labour problems; Eight vessels loading at berth, 12 discharging at berth, 7 loading/discharging at berth; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 7 waiting at anchorage to discharge, 7 waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 12 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	24-Aug-2004	No labour problems; Two vessels loading at berth, 7 discharging at berth, 8 vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 7 waiting at anchorage to discharge, 11 waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 16 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
<b>Pakistan</b>		
Karachi	23-Aug-2004	One vessel loading at berth, 3 discharging at berth; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; 2 vessels awaiting orders; 2 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Port Qasim	23-Aug-2004	Two vessels discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load containers, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; QICT berth: no vessels.
<b>Poland</b>		
Gdansk	23-Aug-2004	Nine vessels in port operating of which 8 loading at berth, 1 discharging at berth; 2 vessels in roads, 9 under repairs/dry-docked; 24 vessels due.
Gdynia	23-Aug-2004	Eight vessels in port operating of which 3 loading at berth, 3 discharging at berth, 2 awaiting orders; 15 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 34 vessels due.
<b>Russia</b>		
Novorossiysk	23-Aug-2004	Six vessels in port operating, all loading; 1 vessel in roads to load pipes/equipment; 52 vessels due of which 50 to load, 1 to discharge equipment, 1 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 1 tanker loading crude oil at berth; 2 tankers in roads, both to load crude oil; 6 tankers due, all to load.
<b>Spain</b>		
Cadiz	24-Aug-2004	Twelve vessels in port of which 3 Ro/Ros, 1 sugar, 1 cereal, 1 clinker, 1 mineral, 1 container, 4 under repairs; no delays expected.
Sagunto	24-Aug-2004	Nineteen vessels in port operating of which 3 loading (2 cement, 1 bulk fertiliser), 11 discharging steel products, 5 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; Outside commercial wharf: no vessels; no delays expected.
<b>Ukraine</b>		
Mariupol	23-Aug-2004	Sixteen vessels in port operating of which 14 loading, 2 discharging; 11 vessels in roads, all to load; 61 vessels due of which 58 to load, 2 to discharge, 1 to discharge/load containers.
Odessa	23-Aug-2004	Thirteen vessels in port operating of which 9 loading, 3 discharging, 1 discharging/loading containers; 5 vessels in roads, all to load; 74 vessels due of which 45 to load, 3 to discharge, 26 to load/discharge containers.

**Published by Lloyd's Marine Intelligence Unit, part of T&F Informa plc, Sheepen Place, Colchester, Essex CO3 3LP.**

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**ISSN 0047 4908**

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